Lancashire: Flash Flooding Chronology

Updated September 2023

Introduction

The past focus on the history of flooding has been mainly with respect to flooding from the overflow of rivers and with respect to the peak level that these floods have achieved. The Chronology of British Hydrological Events provides a reasonably comprehensive record of such events throughout Great Britain. Over the last 60 years the river gauging network provides a detailed record of the occurrence of river flows and peak levels and flows are summaried in HiflowsUK. However there has been recent recognition that much flooding of property occurs from surface water flooding, often far from rivers. Locally intense rainfall causes severe flooding of property and land as water concentrates and finds pathways along roads and depressions in the landscape. In addition, intense rainfall can also cause rapid rise in level and discharge in rivers causing a danger to the public even though the associated peak level is not critical. In extreme cases rapid rise in river level may be manifested as a ‘wall of water’ with near instantaneous rise in level of a metre or more. Such events are usually convective and may be accompanied by destructive hail or cause severe erosion of hillsides and agricultural land.

There have been no previous compilations of historical records of such ‘flash floods’or even of more recent occurrences. It is therefore difficult to judge whether a recent event is unusual or even unique in terms of the level reached at a particular location or more broadly of regional severity. This chronology of flash floods is provided in order to enable comparisons to be made between recent and historical floods, to judge rarity and from a practical point of view to assess the adequacy of urban drainage networks.

In the following chronology for South Yorkshire events are listed by date and by the source of the information. Where meteorological information is available especially rainfall depths over daily or shorter durations, this is listed in the second column. The description of the event then indicates the location and extent of the flooding, including levels or depths on roads and buildings which may still be identifiable. The occurrence of associated hail and especially of large hail has been included where available. Information of human interest but lacks indication of the magnitude of the flood has generally been omitted. The earliest record for South Yorkshire is from 1594 and information is intermittent or description is sparse until 1800 after which the listing of occurrences is considered comprehensive and by 1850 multiple sources provide detailed accounts.

This chronology is part of a set of regional compilations of flash floods for Northern England and for Southwest England and includes the following separate chronologies.

Yorkshire Rye and North York Moors

Yorkshire Swale

Northeast England

River Eden

Derwent and Cumbrian Coast

South Yorkshire Kent and Leven etc

Lancashire Including neighbouring counties draining to the Mersey estuary

Southwest England – Cornwall and Devon

In addition, a more selective compilation of extreme events has been created for the remainder of the British Isles. This is not intended to be comprehensive but picks out events which have been noted by the compiler.

Meteorological information

As a first step in identifying potential dates of flash flooding the publication British Rainfall 1863 – 1968 (Symons British Rainfall from 1863 to 1900) was inspected to ascertain the meteorological conditions associated with flooding – thaw, thaw with rain, frontal rainfall, convectional storms etc. Of particular interest were the records provided of rainfall amounts of specified short duration. Early records of short period intensity were usually derived by observation of the amount and start and end time of intense rainfall. Later records were extracted from recording rainfall gauges, either Dines Siphon or Tilting Bucket records. Very high daily totals were also noted. Those relevant to south Yorkshire were extracted.

The Climatological Observers Link (COL) from 1970 to the present has been used to fill out the later period for intense rainfall although the number of stations is small especially in the early years during the 1970s but is supplemented by observer’s descriptions of events.

Philip Eden’s *Great British Weather Disasters* provides a chronology of severe events from 1901 to 2008, including strom winds, snow and thaw, and intense or prolonged rainfall.

Sources of flood Information

Descriptive information is contained in newspaper reports, diaries and further back in time, from Quarter Sessions bridge accounts and ecclesiastical records. The main source for this study has been from newspaper accounts.

*Early Newspaper Sources*

The Lexis British Newspaper Archive has digitised large continuous runs of newspapers which have been accessed on the web. A search facility identifies all occurrences of given words or combinations of words, by newspaper, by county, by region and by date. The phrase ‘flash flood’ is a 20th century description, so alternative words were required to ensure that all potential flash flood events were identified, without producing an excessive number of irrelevant events. The words ‘flood’ and thunder’ were adopted. The search facility includes within these words variants such as ‘flooding’ and ‘thundering’. Up to 50% of the occurrences identified were of descriptions of ‘floods of tears’ or ‘thundering speeches by politicians’ but is likely to have produced a comprehensive set of flash flood events. All relevant information was extracted from the identified descriptions, such as location, associated meteorological conditions, the occurrence of hail, magnitude and extent of flooding, depth in buildings, fatalities from drowning or lightning, animal losses, bridges and buildings damaged by flood or lightning, severe channel erosion and descriptions of rapid rate of rise in level. Except where events were of very unusual magnitude, winter floods produced by long duration rainfall or snowmelt events were excluded. Only information which could be used to define the magnitude or severity of a historical flood in relation to a recent gauged flood has been included.

The following is a list of the newspapers that have been accessed on the British Newspaper Archive, with the dates currently available. It is noted that although some papers continue publication to the present, for copyright reasons the current archive extends only to 1900 or to 1950. Hence records are most comprehensive for the period from 1850 to 1900, but sufficient newspapers are archived up to 1950 to provide comprehensive data up to that date except for the years of World War II when press restrictions were placed on natural incidents such as thunderstorms and floods.

The earliest concurrent newspaper record is for 1753 from the Manchester Mercury. However occasional reports and descriptions of earlier historic floods are sometimes made, for example in the Burnley Express in August 1905 referring to floods in 1580 and 1666. A few early records have also been extracted from The Gentleman’s Magazine (Hardcopy in the British Library)

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| **Newspaper** | **Place of Publication** | **Available dates** |
| Manchester Courier | Manchester | 1825-1916 |
| Liverpool Mercury | Liverpool  | 1812-1899 |
| Lancaster Gazette | Lancaster | 1801-1893 |
| Lancashire Evening Post | Preston | 1886-1947 |
| Manchester times | Manchester | 1829-1900 |
| Ashton Weekly Reporter | Ashton under Lyne | 1855-1871 |
| Blackburn Standard | Blackburn | 1836-1900 |
| Bolton Chronicle | Bolton | 1835-1871 |
| Burnley Advertiser | Burnley | 1855-1877 |
| Burnley Express | Burnley | 1878-1953 |
| Burnley Gazette | Burnley | 1863-1914 |
| Burnley News | Burnley | 1913-1932 |
| Bury times | Bury | 1855-1869 |
| Leigh Chronicle | Leigh | 1856-1870 |
| Liverpool Daily Post | Liverpool | 1855-1871 |
| Liverpool Mail | Liverpool | 1836-1873 |
| Manchester Evening News | Manchester | 1870-71 1914-17 |
| Manchester Mercury | Manchester | 1753-1830 |
| Preston Chronicle | Preston | 1831-1893 |
| Rochdale Observer | Rochdale | 1856-1870 |
| Cheshire Observer | Chester | 1854-1916 |
| Chester Chronicle | Chester | 1775-1870 1914-17 |

*Newspapers after 1950*

Apart from the British Newspaper Archive, individual national newspapers have online digital archives. The following have been inspected for occurrence of ‘flood’ and ‘thunder’ from 1950 onward – The Times, Daily Mail and the Guardian (originally the Manchester Guardian but becoming a national newspaper in 1959). These sources could be expected to report events of national interest but could well have missed local events even if severe. The Manchester Library provided access to the online source of *NewsBank Newspapers UK and the World.* For Northwest England this provided access to 34 local and regional newspapers. The earliest of these commences in 1995 but most of the newspapers have much shorter records. Only 4 records start before 2000 and a further 3 before 2004; the remainder mainly commence in 2007 and most continue to the present. Coverage is such that in the period with multiple sources, similar material is provided by each. It is likely that information on flooding from intense rainfall is comprehensive from 1995. Ther remained a period from 1950 to 1995 during which local sources were not available online and it was therefore it was considered necessary to access local newspapers in libraries or record offices. The principal source here was the Lancashire Evening Post inspected on hard copy and microfilm at the British Library at St Pancras (so far 1950, 1953 to 68 and 86 to 91 – to be completed).

Using the colour coding in the Flash Flood Chronology

Please see the accompanying document ‘Guide to using colour coding in the Flash Flood Chronology files’ for more information about the colour coding system, available at [www.jbatrust.org](http://www.jbatrust.org)

Flood Chronology

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| **Date and sources** | **Rainfall** | **Description** |
| **Aug 1580 Burnley Gazette 15 Aug 1905** | Thunderstorm | Pendle Hill has burst its bonds and spread dismay and destruction far and wide. The great rents known as Sabden and Ogden Cloughs were by tradition created in such cataclysms. Those of Burst Clough and Braggarts Hole were with certainty to have been thus caused. Of these eruptions the most furious occurred in August 1580. Previous weather had been hot and sultry. The rain was such as had never been before experienced. In several places on the summit of the hill there were spouting vast columns of water earth sand and stones with a loud hissing noise. Everywhere bridges, houses trees were swept along in the current with the inhabitants flying for their lives in every direction. Within an hour this storm had spent its fury but the water continued to run from fissures during some weeks. A considerable number of people perished and all stock were drowned or smothered in stones and mud. Scores of dwellings were entirely destroyed. |
| **18 Aug 1666****Burnley Gazette 15 Aug 1905 (form Manchester Evening chronicle)** | Thunderstorm | The storm was similar but much less severe than the flood of 1580 but more widespread.Pendle: Water burst out from the NW of the hill to a height of at least 6 feet, scooping out the soil to a great depth and fell with great force on the villages of Worston and Downham, two and four miles respectively from the source. Worston was practically demolished and Downham a number of houses were injured and some destroyed.Worston Brook at Worston SD769428Downham Beck at Downham SD784442Great Whernside and Hard Flask: A couple of days later great fissures opened on the side of both hills. The whole valley quickly became a roaring torrent and both villages, Kettlewell and Starbottom, were abandoned in haste. It was more than a generation before its effects were obliterated. |
| **28 Jun 1687 Webb and Elsom 2016** |  | <Alvanley> (Cheshire): The village was hit by hailstones 230mm in circumference (70 mm diameter) which broke all windows facing southwest and associated winds overturned a windmill. Slate and thatched roofs were overturned and uncovered and barck was ripped off trees. There was no mention of flooding. |
| **10 May 1697 Webb et al 2001****Royal Soc Phil Trans. 1697, Webb and Elsom 2016** |  | Northwest England: A hailstorm caused damage from northeast Wales to Northwest England. Tiled and thatched roofs were damaged, west facing glass destroyed and several people suffered serious injuries. The storm moved from St Asaph in northeast Wales bypassing Liverepool to Fleetwood and Blackburn. The hailstones averaged 5 oz (140 g) and were up to 230 mm in circumference (described as goose egg size). The largest were reported to be 8-12 oz (225 to 334 g) |
| **30 Apr 1742****Gentleman’s Mag.**  |  | Pilling Moss, 11 miles from Preston spewed up its contents and covered 60 acres of land several feet deep and forced its current into Garstang River. |
| **23 Jul 1748****The Times Aug 25 2009 Weather Eye Paul Simons****Gentlemens magazine**  |  | Quoting from the Diary of John Wesley he described a flash flood that occurred at Hayfield in the Peak District in Derbyshire. ‘Several water mills were clean swept away without leaving any remains. The trees were torn up by the roots and whirled away like stubble.’ He noted: ‘Two women of a loose character were swept away from their own door and drowned’.River Sett (tributary of Goyt) at Hayfield above A624 bridge SK038868River Goyt at Marple Bridge SJ 965894The greatest flood ever known occurred on the edge of Cheshire and Derbyshire. The River Goit overflowed and carried all the bridges, mills and several houses away, washing out 14 bodies from graves at Hayfield churchyard and were found hanging from trees some miles from the church. Millstones were carried away for a distance of ¼ mile. The Goit covered the highest battlements of Marple Bridge, upwards of 22 feet from the surface of the water at its common height. Two girls were drowned. Large hailstones occurred at Mellor in Derbyshire |
| **10 Oct 1765****Gentleman’s Mag.** |  | Heavy rains at Rochdale (also Ripponden West Yorks), swelled rivulets, bearing down bridges, and carrying stones of incredible magnitude. Rivers changed course.  |
| **8 Jun 1768****Stamford mercury****23 Jun** | Thunderstorm with hail | Warrington: Some of the hailstones measured 2 inches round. [There were also reports of severe thunderstorms in West Lothian – and also in Hereford and Surrey with both severe hailstone damage and fires set by lightning] |
| **23 Jul 1768 Manchester Mercury 2 Aug****Oxford Jour 6 Aug** | Rain was mixed with hail of very large size | At Moulden Water a village near Blackburn, the River Radiefworth (?) (Roddlesworth a tributary of the Darwen?) rose in about an hour one yard higher than had ever been known before (though that last flood had been two feet higher than the oldest inhabitant could remember). It carried away both the old and the new bridge, the latter only build in the last year and four dwelling houses from one of which 3 people were washed away and drowned.On the same day at Chowbent (Atherton south of Bolton – the Chanters Brook?) a thunderstorm caused the water level to rise suddenly five feet perpendicular came into several houses and broke down three stone bridges. Coal pits are full of water and no coal can be got out for several months.Preston: A thunderstorm from 1 pm to 9 pm brought rain and very large hail caused the Mounding Brook on the road to Blackburn to rise so high as to wash down a new stone bridge and the old bridge which had stood for many centuries.River Roddlesforth/Darwen/Ribble Approx SD 644243Chanters Brook Chowbent Approx. SD 674033)  |
| **13 Oct 1771****Tufnell (1983)****Curwen (1900)****Westmoreland Gazette 1861****Gentleman’s Magazine** |  | It seems that floods in the Lake District in 1771 preceded the disastrous floods in northeast England which occurred on 17 November. At Beetham on the River Beela, a tributary of the lower Kent, the Rev William Hutton recorded the flood as the “greatest within the memory of man” and observed that “it was not passable at either end of Beetham Bridge for man or horse several hours (Tufnell, 1983). It run over the Meadow Wall on the east end of the bridge and bro’ it down, it run with great rapidity thro’ the style of the said Meadow” At Caton near Lancaster there was the greatest inundation in the memory of man with several lives lost. The bridge at Wennington was beaten down; three people were drowned in attempting to cross. A mill was damaged by the River Lune. The Attlebeck (where?) was so rapid and furious that it destroyed bridges and weirs. |
| **7-15 July 1783****Cumberland Pacquet 15 Jul** | Unusual thunder and lightning during the past week – nearest reports of loss were two men killed by lightning in Lancaster | No reports of flooding found in Cumbria |
| **14 Sep 1786** |  | Hutton again reported at Beetham that there was “a flood equal to that of 1771 with the same Circumstances - till when We have had rain every day since Aug 11th. Gentleman’s Magazine also refers to letters from the coastal and northern parts of Cumbria which were “full of the ruinous effects of the floods, occasioned by the excessive rains that fell on 13th and 14th of September 1786” |
| **22 Jun 1789****Saunders’s Newsletter 30 Jun****Liverpool Mercury 19 Aug 1831** |  | Liverpool: Reference back from a flood in 1831 to 1789 when ‘the wards of the Infirmary were fitted up for the reception of the poor who were driven in despair from their wretched habitations’.Liverpool: Rain fell over the four last days but yesterday came down so heavy that the cellars of Whitechapel were filled as were many of the houses that lay low. The streets were flooded nearly two feet deep. Lightning set fire to a barn at Formby. A horse was struck dead. |
| **13 April 1792 Manchester mercury 24 Apr** |  | In a thunderstorm at Bacup two girls were killed within a house. An old woman was killed nearby. [Severe storms also occurred at York, Bromsgrove, see general file] |
| **9 Jul 1792 Diary of DC of Greenbank in Wyersdale, in Preston Chronicle 1 Apr 1865** |  | Wyre: The River at Dolphinholme Factory came down in a breast 4 feet deep like as if a dam had been let off and nearly caught some women and children who were on the Warth; they were knee deep before they got out. It brought down with it tubs, barrels stools etc. It was said to have been caused by a cloud bursting in three places, one on the Hynde Hill, another beside the slate quarry above the Townbrook and the third someplace on the high fells. At Marshaw it came into the public houses and at the yate (?) into Marshaw Green the water was as high as the topmost bar of the top but one of the yate. At Dolphinholme in the street it was at a similar depth as at the factory and faster than a person could walk (but not run). At Cleavely Mill it came slower.River Wyre at Dolphinholme SD518534River Wyre at Marshaw SD589534 |
| **17 Jul 1792****Manchester Mercury 24 Jul** |  | Manchester: severe thunderstormLiverpool: severe thunderstorm with remarkably large and pointed hailstones which did great damage to windows and gardens.Chorley: Thunderstorm with rain and hail. Three horses were struck dead. |
| **26 Aug 1792****Cumberland Pacquet****4 Sept** |  | An 8 year old boy drowned in the river Lune being carried away by the rapidity of the stream raised by heavy rains [See also Eden and Carlisle] |
| **30 Jul 1797****Ipswich Jour** **5 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: The storm had hail associated with heavy rain for two hours. Hothouses had many hundreds of panes of glass broken and birds were killed. The hailstones measured 2 inches in circumference and appeared a solid mass of ice. The roof of a thatched barn was beaten off.Chester: The thunderstorm continued for 2 hours with little intermission. Several houses and shops in various parts have upwards of two feet of water in them. Damage was done by lightning and the next day there was a short hailstorm with hailstones 2 inches in circumference.  |
| **17 Aug 1799****JBA Report****Chester Chronicle 30 Aug****The Observer 25 Aug** | Persistent rainfall for two days and nights | Severe storm of wind and rain at Blackburn (and perhaps elsewhere) - “higher than remembered by the oldest person”. Bridges swept away on the Darwen. Stone bridge at Wooley (sic) Banks damaged. Bridge at Brockholes (Preston) on the Ribble, the water was more than 1 foot deep over the bridge and 1/3 of the structure gave way. (Flooding also on Mersey, Tame, Medlock Irk].Manchester: One of the highest floods ever remembered occurred. There is scarcely a bridge remaining on the Mersey to its junction with the Tame. Many mills with their machinery have been swept away and others so damaged they must be taken down. On the Medlock Irk and Tame many bridges have been washed down. Dyehouses on the Irwell have also received much damage. The country between Warrington and Prescot is so flooded to oblige the residents of whole villages to desert their habitations.Northwich: We have had the heaviest flood ever experienced; 2 feet 5 inches higher. All the business there have suffered. One lost 300 tons of salt. People were got out of windows by flat boats, thus saving several lives.[This flood was often quoted afterwards as the greatest on record compared with floods of the nineteenth century][Widespread flooding throughout the country from Northeast to Southwest]The Observer notes extensive damage in Lancashire and almost all the bridges on the Mersey, Tame, Wedlock, Irk, Irwell have been destroyed along with numerous mills along the banks. The aqueducts and banks along canals have given way. Some dyehouses on the Irwell have been demolished and immense quantities of cloth carried away.. |
| **2 Aug 1801****Hull Advertiser 15 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: The storm lasted only half an hour but had damaging effect. The cellars in Whitechapel were all filled and the streets were covered to a depth that boys swam along. A wall at the poor house was thrown down. |
| **15/16 Jan 1806****Manchester mercury 21 Jan** |  | Torrents of rain swelled the rivers to almost unparalleled magnitude. A wooden bridge at Broughton Ford was carried away. Furniture horses and sheep were seen floating down the river. Cellars and lower rooms in Salford and Strangeways were flooded. Large quantities of water flowed up the bottom of Greengate. Flooding was also reported at Warrington and Chester. The Rivers Irwell and Irk rose to an alarming height. Thunderstorms were reported in the Liverpool area. |
| **11 May 1807****Oxford Uni & City herald 16 May** | Thunderstorm | Preston: A thunderstorm was accompanied by hail which broke innumerable windows and skylights. The hailstones were upwards of 3 ½ inches in circumference. Houses with an aspect to the Southeast had windows broken. |
| **6 Sep 1807****Lancaster Gaz. 12 Sep** | 3 ½ inches of rain fell at Kendal in 18 hours | A fall of rain for nearly the whole day was accompanied by a gale of wind. The Lune became so rapid that it carried away the compting house at Halton forge. It carried down a large quantity of corn and some cattle. So large a flood has not been seen here for the last 30 years. The River Kent was much swollen and flooded all the low grounds. A young man of Barley Bridge, Staveley was drowned in the flood. [The Ribble was also high] |
| **15 Aug 1810****Manchester mercury 28 Aug** |  | Liverpool: One of the most dreadful storms in human recollection occurred. Rain was mixed with hailstones of astonishing size and quantities. The storm lasted an hour and a half. Some houses have sustained considerable damage. Flooding occurred in Whitechapel and Paradise Street etc. have been greater than ever remembered. |
| **12 Dec 1814****Lancaster Gaz 15 Apr 1865** |  | The River Lune was swollen higher than known for 40 years and the holmes at Caton Claughton and Hornby were completely covered and many sheep were drowned |
| **28 Dec 1815****Garrett Typographical publications** | A succession of frost and snow since 17 November and a rapid thaw commenced on 28 December 1815. | Great swelling of rivers was experienced at Leeds and Manchester especially the latter place where the River Irwell attained a height unknown before exceeding by 5 inches the great flood of 1768. |
| **19 Jun 1817****Oxford Journal 28 Jun (from Manchester mercury)** |  | Manchester: A thunderstorm with hail caused damage by fire at a mill and broken windows from hail and large pieces of ice notably at Stalybridge. Ice weighed 2 ounces and measured 3 inches in circumference. |
| **4 Jul 1817 Manchester Mercury 22 July** |  | Macclesfield: A storm of severe hail and rain occurred. The brook which traverses the town swelled almost instantaneously to an enormous flood carrying away much material including a large steam engine for a distance of 200 yards. The entire duration of the storm did not exceed 15 minutes.River Bollin at Macclesfield Rail Station SJ919735 |
| **25 Jul 1819****Lancaster Gaz 31 Jul** |  | Preston was visited by a severe storm of thunder and lightning. Many houses and cellars were flooded. A cow was killed and several people were injured by lightning.Blackpool: A thunderstorm was accompanied by very large hailstones.Lancaster: A thunderstorm also occurred but no reports of flooding were found. |
| **25 Apr 1821****Liverpool Mercury 4 May** |  | Belmont near Bolton: A boy was struck and killed by lightning, his father injuredBlackburn: very large hailstones fell. Streets and some houses were inundated by torrential rain.The workshops of weavers principally in cellars were completely filled.Little Harewood: gardens were inundated and much glass was broken in gardens and houses. Works at Mill Hill were damaged by flooding.Wigan: Much glass was also broken. The River Douglas was swollen to a height not seen in the last 20 years.Ashton in the Willows: One half of all the windows in the village were broken. |
| **28 Sep 1821****Sheffield independent 6 Oct** |  | Holywell area in Cheshire was hit by a thunderstorm and flood. Torrents descended in all directions from the mountains. Several houses were nearly demolished and the cotton works sustained much damage with the warter coursing through the lower storeys. Greenfield was badly affected and fled for security to the sides of the hill. The copper works was speedily filled where a furnace burst. Three people were drowned. |
| **1 June 1823****Cumberland Pacquet 9 Jun** | No mention of thunder | Rain fell in torrents and the River Lune was at its highest for several years. Several wooden bridges a horse and several sheep were seen passing down river. The River Wyre was also much flooded. It rose nearly 14 feet in two hours. It carried away a weir at Dolphinstone factory.River Wyre at Dolphinholme SD518534Blackburn: A thunderstorm with hail killed a cow and a horse. No flooding was mentioned. |
| **10 Jun 1823****Liverpool Mercury 13 Jun** |  | Liverpool: Thunderstorm with hail. |
| **X Aug 1825****Liverpool Mercury 12 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: Buildings were struck and animals injured. A sewer following the course of a former stream burst at Redmund Place and blocked the passage of water, flooding every house in the street. |
| **12 Jul 1828****Lancaster Gaz. 19 Jul****Manchester Courier 19 Jul** | The main flooding was from persistent rainfall | Following four days of continuous rainfall thunderstorms were reported in some areas but floods were widespread in northern England. Fields adjoining the Lune, Kent and Ribble were overflowed to a greater or lesser degree.Persistent rain in the Manchester area from 12 to 14 July caused widespread flooding with disastrous effects for agriculture along the Mersey. A mill at Stockport was undermined and collapsed. Detailed descriptions of floods in Statham, Flixton, Stretford, Lymm, Carrington to Warrington the whole valley is under water. At Statham the peak flood level was one inch higher than the previous highest in 1799 by one inch (from a mark on a wall). At Stockport the 1799 flood was higher but this may have been due to the former constriction of the river. The peak on the Irwell was not so high as in previous floods. Three were drowned when a boat overturned in the flood. Brief mention is made of Lune Ribble Kent, Dee and West Yorkshire.Manchester: The effects of the flood were disastrous in Stockport and Didsbury. Park Mill several storeys high in Stockport was undermined by the flood and collapsed; another mill downstream had windows driven in by the flood. The flood had severe effects on land and crops adjoining the Mersey towards Warrington where a boat capsized and four people were drowned.The River Dane which joins the Weaver near Northwich has had disastrous effects along its entire course.In Cheshire the River Bollin overflowed and the river Weaver did much damage in the neighbourhood of Nantwich and Northwich. One house fell down in Witton Street and boats were lauched into the streets with people rescued from their second floor by ladders. |
| **21 Jun 1829****Manchester mercury****30 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Blackburn: Horses and cattle were killed by lightning but there was no mention of flooding. |
| **24 Jul 1829****Westmorland Gaz. 1 Aug****Manchester courier 1 Aug****Chester Chronicle 25 Jul** | Thunderstorm |  [WG also describes a thunderstorm in Preston (no flooding) and in Liverpool (with flooding described)].Liverpool: thunderstorm and water spread over whole streets to a considerable depth and found its way into houses and cellars. A child was killed at the village of Alt near Litherland. Byrom Street Whitechapel was flooded; cellars were nearly filled and shops were flooded. A sewer burst in Fontenoy Street.Manchester: People were struck and injured by lightningThe river Medlock never rose so high in living memoryBury: A large factory was struck by lightning and demolishedBlackpool: A man was struck and killed by lightning in his house.Chorley: great damage was done to glass by the hail or large pieces of ice |
| **6 Sep 1829****Manchester Times** |  | Thunderstorms occurred at Ashton and Blakeley with various properties struck by lightning and one man was killed. There was no reference to flooding. Two people were drowned when a bridge gave way at Smallwood 14 miles from Knutsford when a mail coach was passing over; three others were rescued. |
| **25 Jun 1830 Manchester courier 10 Jul****Yorkshire Gaz 10 Jul** |  | A man was killed by lightning at Lancaster and a child was killed at Edenfield.A heavy thunderstorm occurred at Chadderton Hill when upwards of 200 panes of glass were broken in hothouses. Horses and many sheep were killed by lightning. |
| **30 Jul 1830****Liverpool General Advertiser 5 Aug**  | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: rain soon flooded the streets and did considerable damage. The passages were blocked up and businesses entirely suspended. |
| **8 Feb 1831****Westmoreland Gazette** |  | This flood was preceded by heavy snow over northern England and Scotland at the beginning of February  |
| **8 Jul 1831 Manchester Times 16 Jul****Lancaster Gaz 16 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Bolton: thunderstorm with hail or rather ‘small shingles of ice and rain’. Many sewers in the street were choked up and the streets were flooded in a few minutes. People were seriously injured by lightning in their houses. At Turton the floods have done considerable damage, sweeping away several small bridges. However two miles from Bolton there was no rain.Blackburn: At Yate and Pickup Bank the downpour caused the stream to rise to a considerable height sweeping away several large trees |
| **10 Aug 1831****Liverpool Mercury 19 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: There was a tremendous fall of rain which exceeded the memorable one of 1789. The lower part of the town was completely inundated at 6 in the morning. In many streets it was four feet deep including a liquor store in Byrom Street. Streets mentioned were Hanover Street, Scotland Road, Cable Street, Atherton Street, Burton Street with much damage to properties. Coopers Row was completely flooded and from Litherland Alley round the new Custom House to ParkLane every vault and cellar were filled. Carts were requisitioned to pull people from Church Street and Lord Street to Richmond Street etc. No lives were lost. The flood came down with such rapid impetuosity that they had scarcely time to escape and carry off their children to temporary refuge. In a cellar in Whitechapel a family of a woman and five children had a narrow escape; she carried four to safety and rushed back to the fifth and found it floating on the bed and safe.[In London the pinnacle of the west tower of Westminster Abbey was struck and sent to the ground.] |
| **19 Jun 1832****Chester chronicle 22 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: Whitechapel, Paradise Street and other low lying parts of the town were flooded, in several places 2 or 3 feet deep. Two people were killed by lightning while sheltering under a tree (with scythes!).Preston: The storm was reported with damage in Liverpool Road.Poulton le Flyde:The streets became flooded and high roads were rendered impassable. |
| **15 May 1833****Lancaster Gazette 18 May** | Thunderstorm with hail | Lancaster: The destruction of greenhouses and skylights was general. At the County Asylum hailstones were picked up nearly 4 inches in circumference.Heysham: Some hailstones 5 inches round.Caton: Many cellars of the town were completely flooded and the wind was so high as to unroof a mill.Poulton le Flyde: Tremendous thunderstorm with hail for three hours in the early morning. Hailstones measured 4 ¼ inches round. Few windows escaped that were facing south. Similar window damage towards Blackpool. |
| **4 Jun 1833****Preston chronicle 22 Jun** | The storm extended from Morecambe bay to the Mersey | Manchester: Oldham, Middleton, Stockport and Ashton, much damage was done to hothouses by the hail (3¾ inches in diameter) and lightning. At Litchfield hall 1000 panes were broken. At Ashton the hail lay several inches deep. At Stockport the hail was the size of pigeons eggs. No reference was found to flooding. |
| **7 Jul 1833****Liverpool Mercury 12 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: the rain rolled down from the higher to the lower parts and inundated several districts.A mill and several other buildings were struck by lightning and damaged. A boy and a horse were killed. There was partial flooding but Whitechapel and Paradise street suffered little compared with previous inundations.Stockport: A child was killed in rushing in terror from the storm and falling over a balustrade. |
| **Late Dec 1833****Westmorland Gaz. 28 Dec 1833** |  | For the last two weeks we have had winds rain and hail that has caused the rivers to swell. It is the most severe weather we have almost ever known. The Lune is higher than usual and has caused much loss of stock. A Claughton farmer lost 93 sheep swept away. A factory at Halton on the Lune is much injured and will have to be rebuilt. The rain was accompanied by lightning and thunder. For the last 25 years the Lune has never risen higher than it has twice in the past week. At Kirby Lonsdale it covered the island seen from the brow over the churchyard. The Mill area up to the dyehouses was also under water. At the bridge the water was fully level with the spring of the arch. The Greta with its tributary from the Ingleton fells damaged the bridge which crosses it near Tunstall. A considerable portion of the road between Greta Bridge and Black Borton was washed away. |
| **11 Jul 1834****Liverpool Mercury 1 Aug** |  | River Douglas: The river burst its banks between Rufford and Ormskirk and flooded scores of acres. A child was killed at Bispham |
| **30 Jul 1834****Manchester Times 2 Aug****Liverpool Mercury 1 Aug****Preston chronicle 9 Aug****Hull advertiser 8 Aug Westmoreland Gaz 9 Aug** | Preceding days were surly and oppressive. Rain was mixed with hailstones, an inch and a half to two inches in diameter.  | Glossop: In the hills, men working observed immense quantities of peat thrown up to a height of 30 to 40 feet accompanied by large quantities of water which appeared to boil out of the earth. The water then poured down towards Glossop with tremendous force and rapidity. The Hurst Brook (headwater of R Goyt) was the principal cause of devastation. In the first factory it rushed in the windows rising to seven feet in the lower storey. Two women and child were drowned attempting to escape. Others took refuge on upper floors. Several other mills were similarly inundated. Four bridges were destroyed at Howard Town, Charleston, Primrose and Dinting and two other at Lowe mill and Dinting Mill were seriously damaged. Such was the suddenness and violence of the storm that not only sheep and lambs but also hares, rabbits and grouse were carried away and drowned and many fish were caught on the turnpike road. Glossop Brook at Dinting Lane bridge SK022943River Hurst at Glossop Shirebrook Drive bridge SK 040940When the water poured into the Mersey, it was raised to an unusual size and was covered with the wreck of houses and factories. A man was drowned at Compstall Bridge attempting to retrieve floating material. Two Men were killed by lightning at Newton Heath whilst working at their looms. A woman was killed at Prestwich.Compstall Bridge on the river Etherow at B6104 bridge SJ965907(Another version) Hurst Brook was the principal cause of the devastation. At Hurst workers at a mill observed water sweeping down towards them with great rapidity and called to other occupants ‘run for your lives or you will all be drowned’ the water poured in through windows and within a few minutes was 7 feet from the ground. Workers saved themselves by climbing on carding machines. Three people outside the mill were drowned. Such was the suddenness of the flood that not only sheep and lambs but also rabbits, hares, grouse and other birds were carried away in the flood. All the mills down to the River Etherow were filled with water on their lower floors except Boselys and the printing works at Dinting Lane. At Howardtown Mills 500 looms were covered with water. At Charleston the mills down to the junction with Glossop Brook were flooded. Bridges at Hurst, Cross Cliffe, Littlemoor, Shipley Mill, Wren Nest, Dinting and Charleston, Suninondly and Dinting Vale were all washed away. Moodsbottom Bridge is the only one uninjured. All the houses on the margins of the streams were filled up to a depth of 5 feet. Roads are greatly injured, some washed away and other covered with mud to a depth of half a yard. The rain fell for more than half an hour. Several hundred trees were torn up by the roots and carried away. The turf moss from the moors was brought down in great quantities, some pieces larger than two men could lift. The storm in some places was accompanied by falls of large hail or ice and several people were killed by lightning. It was the most destructive flood in Glossop Vale ever remembered including the long talked of ‘Mottram Wake Flood’ [no date given but 1799] Violent thunderstorms affected the area around Manchester.Another storm passed over Saddleworth, Oldham, Middleton and Bury. Manchester: Thunderstorm with hailstones fell weighing more than one ounce and more than an inch in diameter. At Cheetham some weighed two ounces causing loss of windows and glasshouses. A man was killed at Water Street. Two other men were killed by lightning at Newton Heath. A woman was killed at Prestwich. The hailstones were of 1 ½ to 2 inches in diameter and of irregular shape and one was measured of 4 inches diameter with much damage to growing crops of fruit and windows.Oldham: Similar thunderstorm with hail, some three inches and more in circumference. Scarcely a window facing the storm escaped injury.Bury: A man was killed by lightning. Rain was accompanied by large hailstones such that the drains wre unable to carry the water away.Wigan: Two lives were lost (not clear whether form drowning or lightning).Standish: 2 men were killed by lightning.Ormskirk: A house was struck and a horse killed by lightning. Pendleton: many windows were broken by hail. |
| **3 Aug 1834 Bucks Gazette 14 Aug** |  | Littleborough: The heavy rainfall was augmented by several reservoirs that burst causing a great and sudden inundation so that the whole valley was flooded. The roads were many feet deep in water. At Stone Heys a woman and a child were struck by lightning and killed. |
| **3 Jun 1835****Manchester Courier 13 Jun** |  | Leyland: A woman was killed by lightning whilst sitting at a loom. Damage was also caused near Blackburn.Macclesfield: A hailstorm destroyed thousands of panes of glass; some were 3 to 4 inches in circumference and fell for about 10 minutes. |
| **7 May 1836****Lancaster Gas 14 May** |  | Horwich nr Bolton: A thunderstorm with hail caused serious damage to buildings by lightning and one man was killed. |
| **5 Jul 1836****Westmorland Gaz. 9 Jul** |  | A very severe thunderstorm hit the Dumfries area and was said to have had some effects over much of the country but with no detail in Lancs.  |
| **18 Jun 1838****Blackburn Standard 27 Jun** | Thunderstorm from 11 am to 6 pm | Preston: From the tremendous fall of rain two houses in Marsh Lane, a house in High Street and a large wall were levelled by the weight of waters. Houses in Walker Street were flooded Many thousands of acres of meadow lands have been submerged At Rufford, Sephton and Croston, Woodplumpton, Inskip and Sowerby being as bad as a great flood in June 1823. Inskip Brook Bridge was swept away. Some farmhouses had water up to the window sills. A cow was killed by lightning at Tarlton. Serious flooding occurred at the villages of Goosnargh and Salwick. The Lancaster Canal overflowed next Salwick Hall. Cottages were flooded to a great depth. At Croston the River Yarrow rolled down the street and entered houses; the Sydbrook and Lostock deluged meadows and the Douglas burst its banks. On Horscar Moss water was up to the knees in houses.Garstang: Two men were killed by lightning.Longton: A man was killed by lightningSimilar land flooding and crop damage was reported at Lytham and Poulton le Flyde.Wigan: The Douglas was higher than on any previous occasion and did great damage to cellars near Scholes Bridge. It washed away all but the central arch of Rylance bridge and overflowed the road at Smithy Brook. Much damage was done to crops at Newborough with soil and crops completely washed away. Several coal pits at Pemberton had water rising in them where colleiers escaped with difficulty. |
| **3 Jul 1838****Kendal Mercury 14 Jul****Manchester Courier 7 Jul****Manchester Times 7 Jul****Manchester Courier 14 Jul****Preston Chronicle 7 Jul** |  | A thunderstorm with hail and large pieces of ice several inches in circumference passed over a considerable part of the county, a few miles to the north of Kendal. The hail has done great damage to conservatories and skylights in gardens and factories. (The article mentions Rochdale Bolton and Bury etc. It is not clear if this article refers at all to Westmorland. A very severe thunderstorm affected mainly south Lancashire and Yorkshire with much loss of life both from lightning and from flood. Hail, large pieces of ice followed by rain showers occurred widely lasting for several hours. Hail caused much damage with much broken glass but the greatest damage was done by flooding from the small streams which rise above Rochdale and Bolton. These have been filled with such rapidity that bridges were soon swept down and doing great damage to buildings of all kinds. The flood did great damage along the valley from Little Houghton to Silkstone (where there was a similar flood in 1807). Three men were drowned in a coal pit near Rochdale, a boy was swept from a stable at Bradley and another lost his life at Bolton. Extensive further details are provided but this must be one of the worst flooding incidents in the last 200 years for loss of life.Bolton: thunderstorm with floods causing damage at Edgeworth and Egerton. Buildings were struck and a horse killed. The Royal George Factory was struck by lightning and set alight and collapsed with three men buried underneath.Rochdale: Hailstones measuring 3 inches in circumference broke skylights and windows. The water flowed down Blackwater street like a river and many houses were flooded. A dye house at Spotland bridge was nearly washed away. Black-pits factory near Bagslate was damaged and a new stone bridge nearby was completely washed away. Three boys trapped in a mine were drowned.Bury: With such heavy showers of rain and hail the rivers in the vicinity rose 6 to 8 feet above their usual level in 30 to 40 minutes. Great damage has been done to property in the vicinity of the Rivers Roach and Irwell and their tributaries. Mills at Dearden Clough and Ewood Bridge were greatly damaged. Two stone bridges were washed away. Damage was great in the Rawensthall area.In late afternoon the River Irwell was observed to be rising very rapidly although very little rain had been observed. The flood came down with increasing force and in an hour and a half the river was overflowing its banks having risen 8 to 10 feet in little more than an hour. The River Irk was the greatest contributor. At Rochdale large hailstones damaged windows and skylights and ‘we have not heard of any skylight not broken’. The River Roach rose immediately to an alarming height and cellars in the market place were flooded and shops to a depth of one to 3 feet. Cellars in Rope Street were from 4 to 5 feet deep.Water was 2 feet deep in the Angel Inn Blackwater street. At River Spoddin at Spotland bridge the damage is extensive; the stone bridge is washed away along with the dye house. Many cottages were flooded to the second storey and inmates were released by the aid of ladders and ropes.River Roch at Bury near M66 SD820105River Irwell at A58 bridge SD797109River Roch Gauging station at Blackford Bridge SD807077River Irwell gauging station at Bury Bridge SD797109At Broadley Mill 3 miles from Rochdale, the gasometer, dyehouse loom shops, and stove were swept down the stream where the water was 23 feet deep, its normal level being 2 feet. A stable with a boy and three cows inside was washed away and all drowned.At Rossendale a Cowpe Mill was cut in two by the water. A man was washed away from the Water Burn above Bacup and drowned. On Bagslate two miles from Rochdale Shepherd Mill and bridge are swept away. At Spotland a woman lost two children washed out of the house, one a baby in a cradle.Along the River Eagley, a branch of the Irwell in the neighbourhood of Little Bolton, Turton, Longworth and Sharples the river rose to a great height in 2 hours. At Egerton Mills and Eagley Mill the lower rooms were filled with water and water was 4 feet deep in the warehouse. Footbridges were swept down and coal washed away.Fortunately the heavy rains did not fall on the Mersey and it was raised very little above its ordinary level.At Blomley Colliery near Middleton although no rain was experienced, a whirlwind tore up large trees by the roots.Effects were also severe at Wigan, Chorley, Preston and Lancaster.Preston: A man was killed by lightning.On the Cowpe Brook in the parish of Bury, a mill in the headwaters has a tunnel of considerable length the entrance of which became blocked up and the water backed up to a height of 4 storeys and 26 yards long gave way and immense volumes of water rolled over the ruins carrying away the dyehouse and cottages immediately in front of it. Various mills and bridges were flooded or destroyed downstream.Near a place called Lower Clews a house was destroyed and three other had doors and windows broken down washing out all the furnitureCheesden Brook which rises in Harding was much swollen. A fulling mill was flooded and a new mill was washed away at Coosden ClosePreston: The storm lasted 3 hours. The streets in many places had the appearance of brooks. A man was killed by lightning in Albert Street.Walls of water probably occurred on many other tributaries but the evidence is unclear] |
| **6 Aug 1838****Bolton chronicle 14 Aug** |  | Oldham: The rivers were much swollen and many houses were flooded.The storm was accompanied by strong winds and hail and branches were torn from trees and fruit damaged. A four year old child was killed by lightning.Aston under Lyne: a boy fell in the river and was drowned. |
| **4 Sep 1838****Manchester courier 8 Sep** | Thunderstorm | Macclesfield: Very heavy rain fell for half an hour. The River Bollin was swollen to a great height and houses near its banks were flooded.The spire at Astbury church was struck and partly demolished. |
| **17 Aug 1840****JBA Report****London Evg. Standard 20 Aug****Carlisle Journal 22 Aug**  | Severe gale with persistent rain and some hail | Preston and neighbourhood experienced a storm of wind and rain - “a perfect hurricane” Water rose an inch higher than in 1824 and flood at Preston was said to be the highest since 1799.Manchester: Corn in the area is beaten down with the force of the wind. Rivers Mersey and Irwell are swelled to a height not known since 1799 (also 17 Aug).Bury: A man woman and child were drowned.Blackburn: Streets were flooded and houses flooded in lower areas from the overflowing of brooks. The Ribble was in very high flood with cattle washed away and Brockhole bridge (on the Blackburn and Preston turnpike road), a wooden structure was overtopped and three of the arches are carried away. Damage was done by 3 large trees blocking the opening. |
| **8 Jul 1841****Liverpool Mail 14 Jul** | No reference to thunder | Fylde: Many scores of fields are one sheet of water even covering hedges. Embankments at Inskip, Sowerby and Ashton on Ribble have given way. A considerable number of cottage houses are flooded to a depth of one foot and lanes are impassable in the neighbourhood of St Michaels. |
| **21 Aug 1841****Bolton chronicle 28 Aug** | A storm of wind hail and rain with occasional thunder | Bolton: The damage was restricted to the breaking of a few windows.Liverpool: St Michaels Church steeple was shattered by lightning. Low parts of the town were completely flooded. The spire of the church of St martin also suffered some damage. |
| **14 Sep 1841****Liverpool Mail 1841** |  | St Helens: Incessant rain and thunder continued for some hours. Water continued to pour into the lower part of the town from eight in the evening till two in the morning. At the bottom of Tontine Street (the entrance leading from Liverpool Road) the depth reached 6 feet and extended over a wide area. Seven people were drowned. The water filled Kidd’s linen yarn factory and every house on the street. Fifteen people are missing in the neighbourhood of Haydock. |
| **5 Jul 1843****Sheffield Independent 15 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Melling: A boy was struck and killed by lightning.Rochdale: The Methodist church at Castle Moor was struck and damaged and much damage was caused by flooding at Milnrow where four bridges were carried away by the overflow of water. The gable end of a house at Kiteliffe was washed away and furniture floated out of the house and found 3 miles away. |
| **21/22 Nov 1843****Westmorland Gaz. 25 Nov** |  | In consequence of the heavy rain on 21st and 22nd the river in the vicinity of Sedbergh [Rawthey, tributary of the Lune] was higher than has been known for a good number of years. In some parts of the vale of Dent the road was covered to a depth of 2 feet. The mail between Northallerton and Sedbergh was compelled to come by way of Catterick because of water 7 feet deep on the road at Morton on Swale. The flood entered a few houses of parties near the river. |
| **22 Jun 1844****Manchester courier 29 Jun** |  | Stockport: Thunderstorm with rain and hail. Many sewers were soon choked up and the water flowed into several poorer homes in the lower part of town. The cellars of several public houses were also filled. |
| **6 Sep 1844****Manchester Courier 14 Sep** |  | Thunderstorms occurred at Warrington, Wigan, Leigh, Chowbent, Bedford and Westhoughton. At Breightmet a woman was killed by lightning and a cow killed at West Houghton.Hazelgrove near Stockport: On the same day a storm near Hazel Grove a cotton mill at Bosden in Cheshire was flooded and men sent home; on passing a wall, behind which was a reservoir of water, the wall gave way killing 6 men and injuring several others. A bridge was destroyed. |
| **19 Jun 1846****Manchester Courier 24 Jun** |  | Stockport: A thunderstorm of two hours duration caused flooding of streets. Two people were killed by lightning whilst sheltering in a barn.Thunderstorms were reported in several other towns including Wigan and Warrington but without reference to flooding. |
| **5 Jul 1846****Manchester courier 8 Jul****Preston chronicle 11 Jul** |  | Oldham: A thunderstorm caused the streets to be much flooded with the sewers being surcharged. A great deal of damage has been done by water flowing into houses and cellars.Liverpool: Houses were struck and several people injured.Ormskirk: The lower end of Aughton Street and the houses were completely flooded. |
| **29 Jul 1846****Manchester times 8 Aug** |  | Liverpool: Following a period of excessive heat a thunderstorm struck Liverpool (as affected much of England). Several people were struck by lightning and injured and buildings affected. No mention is made of flooding in Liverpool although there were extensive problems elsewhere including London.Oldham: A young woman was killed by lightning in her house.Warrington: Thunderstorm in which the sewer grids quickly became choked and the water ran down streets flooding houses and cellars and also shops. In several of the lower streets the water was 3 to 4 feet deepWigan: the thunderstorm extended in all directions and injury from the flow of water is very considerable. Scaffolding for the repair of a bridge over the River Douglas was carried away. In the town much damage was done by the complete glutting of sewers and overflowing into cellars. The storm was of short duration.Bacup: The rain fell in torrents for two hours. The George and Dragon public house in Market Place was flooded to a depth of several feet. St James’s Street was like a river and houses and cellars flooded. A draper in Bridge Street was flooded. ‘There has not been so disastrous a flood for upwards of 20 years’. |
| **22 Sep 1847****Manchester courier 29 Sep****Blackburn Standard 29 Sep** |  | Widespread rainfall and apparently prolonged rainfall (no mention of thunder).Manchester had 3.13 inches during the week. The Rivers Irwell Medlock and Irk were in high flow and caused problems with mills due to the amount of sediment. Many establishments along the Irwell were completely flooded. We never knew the water to rise so rapidly. At Stretford the Mersey overflowed its banks to a great extent. The water overflowed the highway at Cheadle. Flooding was also reported at Stockport and Macclesfield (River Bollin)Wigan: This is the only mention of thunder and lightning along with heavy rain for several hours. Water overflowed into old mine shafts and caused difficulties for working mines.Garstang: The River Wyre was filled to a most extraordinary degree. An embankment failed at Stockingbridge and much land was flooded and a farmhouse was flooded to 3 feet. The water was two yards deep on the road from St Michaels to Great Eccleston.Oswaldthwistle: A girl was drowned when falling off a plank into the flooded Lottice Brook.Blackburn: the R Blackewater rose five feet above its normal height, higher than for 30 years. A vast number of cellars and dwellings were flooded and a great deal of property was destroyed. Water St was impassable for several hours; Penny Street and Church Street as far as Ainsworth street were covered with water. The White Bull close to Salford Bridge was flooded to several feet. At Whalley Banks cellars and lower rooms were flooded. The water rose 4 to 5 feet above the roadway in Brunswick Street and Thomas Street in the Wrangling. The lower end of Darwen Street was flooded to the first floor. In Henry St an old couple in a basement were rescued just in time. Back Livesey street was flooded to the first floor. Pearson Street, the bottom of chapel Street and Ainsworth Street were likewise inundated. King Street had the appearance of a river. At Eanam the river carried away part of an embankment and flowed through Sparrow’s factory and through the first floor of a factory at Further Gate.Wigan: had a storm of thunder lightning and rain and the rain poured for several hours. The River Douglas was swollen to a great height. Mines were flooded.Bolton: the River Crole was higher than for 20 years. Cottages at Waterside, Coopers Row were flooded. Several mills were flooded and work stopped but damage was not serious.Warrington: Dallam Brook overflowed and covered much meadow land. It washed over the turnpike road at Longford Bridge and over the Liverpool Road near the Wash. |
| **2 Apr 1848****Manchester Courier 8 Apr** |  | Colne: A thunderstorm was reported accompanied by hailstones the size of kidney beans. The parsonage was struck and caused serious damage. There was no report of flooding [On the same day serious flooding occurred in S Yorkshire and thunderstorms were reported in Cheshire and Herefordshire] |
| **29 Jun 1848****Manchester Courier 1 Jul** |  | Pilkington and Whitefield: A severe thunderstorm was accompanied by hail and rain for only 20 minutes. A house was struck and damaged by lightning. Several cottage houses near Radcliffe bridge (R Irwell) were flooded. |
| **23 Aug 1848****Manchester Courier 26 Aug****Preston Chronicle 26 Aug****Blackburn Standard 30 Aug****Lancs county Publications 17 Aug 1998** |  | A thunderstorm occurred at Over Darwen and a water lodge (mill dam?) burst. The embankment was reduced from 40 to 20 feet causing a breach 60 feet across. Along the stream the water rose 10 feet and carried all before it. Houses immediately below were flooded to 4 to 5 feet. Water poured down Water Street and Bury Street into Market street, the principal street of the town. It then flowed into Lum Street where it forced a door inwards. Twelve people were drowned in cellar dwellings in Bury Street where the water was 3 feet deep on the road above the cellars and in some houses it was 5 feet deep. The flood occurred at night and people were taken unawares in bed. (Blackburn Standard has an extended description of the mill dam (lodge) and the circumstances of its failure. The flash flood here was not the direct consequence of the intense rainfall but the indirect effect of the dam burst.) Oldham: A child was killed by lightning in its house.Preston: thunderstorms with strong cold winds over three days. The rivers are unusually full. Much land was flooded at Hutton and Penwortham, Longton and Hoole. At Croston many houses were flooded. At Brinscall all the brooks overflowed and carried everything with them and damaging walls. Roads had the appearance of being harrowed. People at Croft house had a narrow escape from the floods from the Hatch Brook, leaving furniture floating about in the house. Chorley: The river Lostock overflowed and inundated the bleachworks at Low Mill near Chorley and the cottages in the neighbourhood to a depth of 4 feet.1998 report describes the event as follows: Bold Venture Park lake was then a vast reservoir built by Eccles Shorrock, Darwen's first industrialist. It nestled in a deep quarry high above the town centre, surrounded by hills on three sides and with an artificial embankment overlooking the narrow streets and alleys, the back-to-back slums and the cellars of the town below.A dozen men, women and children were drowned in the dark cellars where they lived. It was just after midnight that the first spots of rain began. Then, thunder and lightning and torrential rain blasted the town for three hours without respite and water poured down the moors to swell the reservoir until, with a crack which dimmed the thunder, the embankment gave way. The water level dropped in moments by up to 40ft as tons of earth, stone and sand were swept along by the swirling torrent down the small overflow stream towards the winding network of alleyways which started close what is now the former Co-op bakery building in Borough Road. The deluge struck with devastating force, ripping apart culverts, roads and houses. There was no local newspaper to tell the story 150 years ago and it was left to Edward Gregson, the town's only printer, to publish an account of the tragedy which he headlined: "Most Alarming and Dreadful Accident in Over Darwen." He began thus: "We have to record one of the most alarming and melancholy occurrences that has ever taken place in this part of the country by the bursting of a water lodge, situated to the west part of the town, which was attended by most fearful consequences, there being no less than 12 human beings hurried into Eternity with scarcely a moment's notice, the greater part of them being drowned whilst asleep."A house and shop owned by John Turner was quickly flooded to a depth of five feet. His wife ran downstairs to investigate the roar in the darkness, dropped the baby she was carrying but just managed to grab it by a leg before it was swept away. The first and second floors of the Cooper family's home collapsed on one side, but they managed to scramble to the safety of the hill behind by breaking a back window. In a narrow passage called Lumb Street the water crashed through the front doors of two houses and Ellen Townley and Mary Day held three children above their heads for an hour until they were rescued. Next door John Townley, his wife and children were hauled to safety by John and Ralph Shorrock who had seen blood-stained hands clawing through a broken window. One little boy who had a miraculous escape was carried by the surging tide from Water Street nearly 200 yards to the Angel Inn in Market Street - the old Burton's building is on the site - before the lad was snatched to safety by shoemaker John Hindle just as he was about to be whirled into the underground culvert.Three linked cellars under the Bury Street house of shoemaker Christopher Bibby were occupied by the Knowles and Lassey families and a young man called Haworth. The only entrance was though the front door and the water poured in. Only John Lassey, 20, survived. Although water rose to within four inches of the ceiling he managed to keep his face above it by clinging to the chimney-piece. Mary Shaw and two of her five children also died in a Bury Street cellar. In another cellar in Church Street widowed Alice Nixon managed to save only one of her two children. Next to the Black Bull in Market Street a cellar under a tailor's shop was occupied by Henry Bury, a fishmonger and fruiterer, his wife and three children. When the flood hit he and his wife managed to drag two of their children to a higher part of the cellar and hold them high until being rescued. They could do nothing for their baby. The 12th victim was Ellen Walsh, on old woman who also lived in a Market Street cellar under a butcher's. |
| **1 Sep 1848****Manchester Courier 6 Sep** |  | Five trains were held up at Barnacre approaching Garstang where the line was flooded two feet deep for about a mile. The water is supposed to have come from Bleasdale Fell over which a violent thunderstorm had occurred shortly before. |
| **9 Aug 1849****Manchester Courier 11 Aug** |  | Bacup: A thunderstorm followed a very calm and sultry day. The storm burst over the town at 12.10 and the town first became flooded at 12.20 and continued to rise until 1.20. The flood was said to have risen 6 inches higher than a flood 18 years ago. Some houses were flooded to a depth of 5 feet. The water threw down the parapets of several bridges and outhouses and animals were carried away. A raingauge recorded 0.99 inch. Most of the mill owners and tradesmen have suffered severely.River Irwell at Bacup at Henrietta street SD870227Dunford Bridge: Severe storm worst for 14 or 15 years but only 4 miles away there was no rain.Altrincham: Several buildings were struck including a church pinnacle and damaged by lightning. A cow was killed but no flooding was reported. |
| **1 Sep 1849 Morning Chronicle 6 Sep** |  | Macclesfield: the thunderstorm lasted more than an hour around midnight. The River Bollin which might have been stepped over the previous day was increased to such an extent as to flood houses in some cases to a depth of 5 feet. In George Street and the Water Cotes furniture was afloat and mud left in some houses to a depth of one foot. In Back Wallgate a sewer fell in and left a hole 4 yards square. Tradesmen near the Bollin have suffered losses. Two cows were killed by lightning at Alderley. |
| **5 Oct 1849****Manchester courier****12 Oct****Liverpool Mercury 26 Oct** | Snow then thunderstorm! | Glossop and Woodhead: Etherow was visited first by a snow storm then by thunder which continued for several hours. Manchester Waterworks in the vicinity, then under construction was damaged by floods particularly in the Headon Brook and the River Etherow. Along the Etherow it flooded large areas of land. At the Vale House mill three miles downstream the water came like a ‘wall of water’ five feet high; the lower storeys of the mill were flooded in an instant and destroyed an adjacent school building. Two bridges were partly swept away and most of the houses suffered some flooding. Further down Lee’ spinning mill was flooded along with neighbouring cottages to a great depth. Further down the Hollingworth Printing works, Waterside Mill were flooded, cottages flooded and a bridge carried away. Etherow at Woolley Bridge (near Hollongworth) SK009958(Headon Brook not identified)Preston: A bridge under construction for the Bamber bridge branch of the East Lancashire Railway over the river Ribble was destroyed, fourteen arches being demolished by the high flood level.  |
| **29 May 1850****Manchester Courier 8 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Blackburn: thunderstorm with rain and hail causing the streets to be deluged in an instant. The storm appears to have been very localised. |
| **20 Jun 1850****Manchester courier 29 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Stockport: In a thunderstorm many houses were flooded at Alderley near Stockport |
| **16 Jul 1850 Manchester courier 20 Jul** **Liverpool Mercury 23 Jul** | Thunderstorms | Thunderstorm stretching from Manchester to Bury, Chorley, Liverpool and Knutsford. Two children were killed by lightning at Horwich and a man was drowned when working in a pit which filled with water.At Horwich the storm continued from 4.15 to 9.00 and the water descended the valley, uprooting trees, tore up roads, broke down bridges and flooded houses and several mills. On some roads it made cavities 4 to 6 feet deep. Next morning the river Irwell was much swollen. A boy was killed by lightning near Bury and a man was killed at St Helens.The print works at Adlington were flooded and there is great damage at Blackrod where a man was drowned by the filling of a coal pit. At Wigan the water got into some old workings from the Douglas, and fearing a repetition of the problems in 1847, men got out quickly. At Hendley a row of houses were completely filled and a child was drowned. Two people were swept off their feet at New Scholes but they were rescued. At Ormskirk several houses were flooded and the railway line was covered for some distance. At Hindley the Brosden Brook broke down two bridges and injured the county bridge and the Douglas overflowed. Many houses were flooded in Wigan and two public houses.Bolton: Houses and mills were struck by lightning and damaged.Ormskirk: Heavy rain continued for upwards of an hour. The streets were completely flooded partly owing to blockage of gutters by straw etc. The rails of the railway near Moor Street were covered. Several houses were flooded. Two men and a horse were killed at North Meols. |
| **1 Aug 1850****Preston chronicle 10 Aug** |  | Darwen: In a thunderstorm the streets had the appearance of rivers; drains were choked and several cellars flooded. A young man fell into the brook in Water Street and was carried for some distance before being rescued. |
| **21 Jun 1851****Manchester Courier 28 Jun****Manchester Times 25 Jun** | Widespread thunderstorms from North Wales to Nottingham and West Yorkshire moving from west to east. | Thunderstorm accompanied by very strong wind and large hailstones, some as big as pigeon’s eggs, rugged pieces of ice and weighing nearly an ounce.Manchester: Rain was so heavy that gulleys were surcharged and almost every street was more or less flooded and in many poured into cellars. A heavy volume of water rushed down Great Dulcie Street, Strangewasys and Bury New Road and streams came from Cheetham Hill and Cheetwood. A wall was washed away at Strangeways Methodist chapel. Cellars in Chester Road Hulme were flooded to a considerable depth and also at the lower end of Deansgate. Stalls in Shadehill Market were thrown down by the wind. At Pendleton, factories were damaged by hailstones, 7/8 inch in diameter, and the wind. At Droylsden the Catholic Chapel had 200 panes broken and nearly every house was similarly affected.At Newton where Shooter’s Brook and Blue Button Brook join a number of cottages and a beerhouse were flooded.At Bowdon 0.98 inches of rain fell in 30 minutes. Sandy Lane was transformed into a large river and near Peel Causeway a large hole was excavated by the water. At Bowdon Railway Station the water rushed down from Bowdon Downs, through the booking office and was knee deep on the tracks. New shops near the station were flooded.Ashton: Windows were widely broken at Little Moss. Many houses in the Boston area were flooded to a considerable depth. The sewers at Charlestown were insufficient to carry the Hurst Brook and water flowed down Boston Street in some places to 18-20 inches deep and flooded some houses.Bolton: The storm continued for 1 ½ hours. A pub was set on fire by lightning. There was no reference to flooding.Bury: water poured down the streets in torrents. Part of a factory at Simpson Clough was washed away and grocers at Heywood had cellars and contained goods flooded. A child was killed by lightning.Blackburn and Haslingden: Lightning effects were noted but no reference to flooding.Middleton: At Little Parks, Lower Tonge and at Rhodes a number of cottages were flooded and furniture severely damaged- 7 houses at Tonge Lane, 9 cottage houses at Greenshaw Lane. Damage was caused by the wind with trees blown down and houses destroyed.Oldham: Hurricane was more destructive than the thunderstorm which had hail and large pieces of ice. The hurricane approached with a deafening roar carrying away roofs, whole buildings and trees.Rochdale: The storm lasted one hour. In Yorkshire Street the gulleys were surcharged and water flowed down into Old Market Place where it filled many cellars. In College Street and Holland Street the flood left heaps of rubbish. The foundations of 6 new houses in Manchester Road were swept away and the Gas works were affected. Damage was done to a mill in Manchester street. At Amen corner water surrounded a house to 4 feet depth. At Spotland a pub at Shawforth was flooded from an adjoining brook. Three cottages were flooded near Bridge Mill. Three weirs in the vicinity were washed away.Stockport: Hailstones 1 ½ inch in diameter were measured and few houses have escaped injury. Large factories have had several thousand panes broken and foliage and fruit stripped from trees.Warrington: Streets were flooded and impassable especially in Scotland Road.Liverpool: Minor lightning effects were noted but no reference was made to flooding.Manchester: Cellars especially in Deansgate and Chester road are floodedSalford: Cellars were flooded by the heavy fall of rain.(otherwise much the same information as in Courier though this is 3 days earlier) |
| **2 Jul 1851****Manchester courier 5 Jul** |  | The village of Chipping 12 miles from Preston was visited by a fearful thunderstorm and devastating flood. A vast tide with irresistible force swept down the valley from the Parlick Hill, sweeping away sheep, trees and thousands of tons of earth and stones, weir ,bridges, fences and hedges. Chipping Brook otherwise and insignificant stream was swollen into a torrent. At Evans’ cotton factory on the banks the water rose 18 feet and was 6 feet deep in the mill or 2 feet over the top of the machinery which was covered with mud. One mill weir was destroyed and another damaged. One stone bridge was demolished and another partially destroyed; a wooden bridge was removed and another damaged. Many houses in the village were flooded to a depth of 4 to 6 feet; one house was undermined and partially carried away.Chipping Brook at Chipping SD622434 Chipping is a tributary of the river Loud which joins the River Hodder at Doeford Bridge |
| **28 Jul 1851****Manchester courier 2 Aug** |  | Rochdale: A thunderstorm of short duration caused lightning damage to a mill chimney. There is no reference to flooding. |
| **14 Aug 1851****Manchester times 16 Aug****Manchester Courier 16 Aug****Preston chronicle 16 Aug** |  | Thunderstorms at Hulne which completely flooded the streets and many of the cellars. A man was killed by lightning at Droylsden. Large hail broke skylights at Stalybridge, Hyde and Dukinfield. A woman was killed by lightning at Rochdale.At Wigan the volume of water which rushed down the Scholes was very great and flooded several houses and cellars. A great body of water ran down Standishgate and flooded several houses and shops. Darwen: several houses were flooded near the Angel Inn. In a second storm the following day houses were flooded in Lawrence St and the bottom end of Duckworth Street. |
| **21 Jun 1852****Manchester Times 23 Jun** |  | Manchester: thunderstorm with rain and hail of ‘prodigious size’. The worst effects of the hail were in Eccles and Pendleton where greenhouses were riddled by large lumps of ice. Mills have been temporarily stopped because of damage to buildings. Hail was measured at 2 ½ inch in circumference; elsewhere the size was reported as 1 inch in diameter. Buildings were struck in Manchester but there were no reports of flooding in that area.Bury: A number of houses were flooded by the rain.Rochdale: Buildings were damaged by lightning. |
| **13 Jul 1852****Manchester Courier 17 Jul** |  | Oldham: thunderstorm with rain and hail. A horse was killed by lightning and a building struck and damaged.Middleton: Intense rainfall for 40 inutes; a house was struck and damaged. Cellars were filled by the flood.Storms were also reported at Warrington and Todmorden but without reference to flooding or lightning damage. |
| **26 Jul 1852****Preston Chronicle 31 Jul** |  | Darwen: Fields lanes and houses were inundated by the flood. A culvert at Eccles’ Mill was surcharged and water flowed into the factory yard. Timber fowl and pigs were seen floating down the brook. |
| **17 Aug 1852****Manchester Courier 21 Aug****Liverpool Mercury 20 Aug** | Noted that the year 1852 had a remarkable number of severe thunderstorms around the country | Manchester: the storm was concentrated over Ashton and Openshaw. People were struck and injured but there were no fatalities. A horse was killed and houses were damaged by lightning. Cattle Market Hotel Cross Lane Salford was flooded when sewers in the street became surcharged (the second time in 2 years that the house has been flooded).Liverpool: the streets were completely flooded.Bury: The flood overflowed the tanks conks connected to the gasworks, stopping the supply of gas.Rochdale: A man was drowned in the river Roach.Liverpool: the streets were completely flooded. Some cellars in Lord Street and other low lying parts of the town were flooded.Haslingden: three cows were killed by lightning. |
| **31 Aug 1852****Manchester courier 4 sep** |  | Blackburn: A factory chimney was damaged by lightning. The lower parts of the town were again flooded especially in Darwen Street. |
| **9 Jul 1853****Manchester Courier 23 Jul****Bolton Chronicle 23 Jul** | Widespread destructive thunderstorms and prolonged rainfall and floods over much of England | Preston and Lancaster: Heavy rain with some thunder and lightning lasting from Saturday morning to Sunday morning. Rivers were very high and great damage was done to farmers in Caton, Aughton, Claughton and Hornby Holmes. Cows, sheep and pigs were washed away. The Rivers Kear and Condor overflowed and caused much damage. The River Wyre forced down the baulks below Churchtown and did great damage at Fleetwood, Pilling, Nateby, Winmarlegh and Cockerham Sandside. On the River Wyre at St Michaels, Sowerby, Wooplumpton was at the greatest extent in the last 60 years. Embankments gave way causing widespread flooding of farmland at Sowerby. The brook which flows through these townships was the highest since the disastrous inundation in 1840. Two thirds of the highway between St Michaels and Great Eccleston was covered with water to a great depth and impassable.Garstang: A correspondent notes that this was the largest flood on the Wyre since 2 Jun 1823. The water entered all the buildings at Kirkland mill in some places to a depth of 30 inches. Flooding was also extensive in Croston and Rufford areas. |
| **28 May 1854****Manchester times 31 May** | Thunderstorm | Bolton: the storm lasted 20 minutes and streets were deluged with hail and rain. At Gilnow a cow was killed by lightning.Oldham: rainfall for a couple of hours; lightning injury and damage to a house but no reports of flooding.Rochdale: Lightning damage to property but no reference to flooding. |
| **31 Jul 1854****Manchester Courier 5 Aug** |  | Ashton: A heavy shower of rain with a little thunder for 1.5 hours causing houses in low localities to be completely flooded. The sewers were choked up and streets impassable. |
| **5 Jun 1855****Manchester Courier 9 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Storm with rainfall for 2 hours but there was no reference to flooding there or elsewhere.Bolton: A boy was killed by lightning at EgertonRochdale: A factory chimney was partly demolished by lightning at WardleAshton under Lyme: A factory was struck and seriously damaged at Cock Brook |
| **8 Jun 1855****Lancaster Gaz 16 Jun** |  | Ingleton: Severe thunderstorm but no flooding noted.Milnthorpe: the lower end of the town was flooded. The hailstones were very large and lay thick upon the ground. A cow was killed by lightning. |
| **31 Jun 1855****Liverpool Mercury 3 Jul** |  | Liverpool: Storm flooded roads and streetsBirkenhead: Severe flooding occurred especially at Chester Street where the water rushed towards Woodside Ferry. Many houses in the town suffered severely.Manchester: the storm was brief but violent. Two houses were struck by lightning and damaged. |
| **14 Jul 1855****Bury Times 21 Jul****Ashton weekly Reporter 21 Jul****Lancaster Gaz 21Jul** | Thunderstorm | Heywood: many houses were flooded and a house was struck by lightning.Mossley: Several houses in low places were flooded.Gorton: A boy was struck and killed by lightning in his house. |
| **24 Jul 1855 Manchester courier 28 Jul****Liverpool daily Post 25 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Rochdale: some houses in Halland St were flooded ankle deep.Manchester: Thunderstorm but no reports of flooding |
| **8 Aug 1855****Carlisle Journal 10 Aug****Manchester courier 11 aug** | Thunderstorm | Thunderstorms were widespread. Runcorn: Rain fell in streams, deluging cellars and tearing up roads; a horse was killed by lightning. |
| **24 Aug 1855****Manchester courier 25 Aug** | Thunderstorms | Manchester: Two separate storms during the night, the first lasting one hour and the second of shorter duration. ‘The streets and courts were flooded with incredible rapidity’. No specific mention of property flooded.Stockport: Heavy rain stopped many of the channels and sewers and flooded cellars; a house was struck and seriously damaged. |
| **4 Oct 1855 Manchester Courier 6 Oct** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Heavy rain mixed with hail and a smart breeze from the southwest. Several streets were flooded when the gratings were unable to receive the water and cellars were flooded. Hail damaged skylights including panes in the roof of Victoria Station. |
| **8 Aug 1856****Manchester Times 16 aug** | Thunderstorm with hail on 7th and 8th followed by persistent rain on 9th. | Ramsbottom: Rain Hail and pieces of ice fell in torrents causing damage to mills and houses (not clear whether from lightning, hail or flooding). A blacksmith from Ramsbottom was drowned.Bury, Edenfield: A gardener was killed by lightning and two horses were killed at Quarlton. The high roads were completely flooded. Some of the streams were higher than had been known for 30 years. |
| **9 Aug 1856 Manchester Times 16 Aug Ashton Weekly Reporter 16 Aug****Chester chronicle 16 Aug** | Persistent rain – no mention of thunder but it was said the rain was mingled with hailstones of enormous size and at Helmshore the hail was 6 inches deep. | Manchester: The rivers Irk Medlock Irwell and Tib rose to a height not known for many years. The River Medlock rose 15 feet above ordinary level and flooded a vast number of warehouses storehouses and cellars, mainly in Downing St and Buxton St off London Road. Mellor’s timber yard and Hoyle’s Printworks sustained much damage. Gas was put out as meters became inundated. Peak level was said to be 3 feet above that ever known, the previous great flood being in 1828. A culvert recently constructed at Hulme St was surcharged and water rose 4 feet above its crown and backed up. In the cellars of the Royal Oak Inn, London Road, the water rose to 8 feet. Businesses were flooded in Store Street and a wooden footbridge washed away. Cellars in Hanover Street and Buxton Street were flooded with loss of yarn and warps and a chemical manufacturer at Ardwick Bridge was flooded. Flooding extended from Buxton Street on the onse side of Ardwick Bridge to Russell Street on the other. In the neighbourhood of Oxford Road the flood broke into properties of Irish poor and 80 houses were flooded. Two men were drowned in the River Irwell, thought to be caused by the failure of a bridge they were crossing.Rochdale: An embankment at Marland Mill gave way flooding the River Roach but no damage was reported.Woodhead: Owing to the overflow of the River Etherow the railway was blocked from Sheffield to Manchester. The rails were carried away.Stockport: A cottage in the vicinity was washed down.Ashton: The Rivers Teme and Swineshaw Brook overflowed and affected Harrison’s Cotton mill.Stalybridge and Dukinfield: Several houses nad mills were flooded. Two bridges were swept away. North-end Mill was flooded and a culvert burst causing the flooding of the Swan Inn. All the houses in Canal Street were flooded when the canal bank was washed in. At least 6 mills were also mentioned and the Dog and Partridge Inn. All the houses in Caroline Street were flooded. Turner Lane Brook at Charlesworth also overflowed and flooded houses.Mossley and Saddleworth: the River Teme and Tributaries overflowed espec ially at Bottoms where a substantial bridge was carried away along with 5 timber bridges; many mills near the river were flooded up to a depth of 5 feet. A great many roads are broken up and furrows more than a yard in depth and three or four yards wide are quite common. Par of the wall of Mossley churchyard was carried away and in many cottages the water accumulated to a depth of 5 ½ feet.New Hollins: A row of houses damaged by a thunderstorm 2 days previous was further damaged by the longer rain with the back walls falling in.Saddleworth: 3 bridges were washed away including 2 stone ones and 3 weirs. The flood was said to have surpassed any flood since the great flood of 1799. |
| **4 Oct 1856****Manchester Times 11 Oct** | Presumably a thunderstorm | Oldham: A waterspout fell at Crompton fold and Weymoss in the neighbourhood of the corporation waterworks. The brooks in the neighbourhood were immediately flooded and much damage done to adjoining property. A part of the waterworks embankment gave way but did not fail. Several mills were flooded and the road was ploughed up to a depth of 18 inches, the boulder stones with which it was paved being washed away. |
| **14 May 1857****Blackburn Standard 20 May** | thunderstorm | Liverpool: some of the public thoroughfares were flooded. |
| **28 Jun 1857****Lancaster gaz 4 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Craven: the storm flooded low grounds and many cellars. Preston was also affected by the thunderstorm but no flooding was reported.[Storms were also reported at chester and Crewe with floodin at the former]. |
| **15 Aug 1857****Manchester Times 22 Aug****Manchester courier 22 Aug** | Widespread thunderstorms over North, East and West of England  | Manchester: the Irwell was higher than for many years. The low ground behind Broughton Mews was flooded to a depth of several feet. Only the white parapets of wooden bridges were visible. Mills were flooded to the level of boiler fires and hence stopped. At Victoria Bridge the Irwell augmented by the Irk rose 4 inches higher than in Sept 1855 (no ref above); a man was drowned attempting to catch floating timber. Along the Medlock the water rose 3 to 5 feet higher than last August; many properties were flooded this time which escaped in the 1856 flood, including Chorlton Mills. An engineer’s premises at Great Marlborough St were flooded to 8 feet. All the cottages in Little Ireland were flooded some to the bedroom floor and some broke through their roofs to escape.Mills at Prichard St of Charles St suffered severely along with Mynahull Mill, with boilers carried away and water reaching 5 feet in an upper yard and New Mill (6 ½ feet deep, three feet higher than the flood last year). Edmonson’s Calico printers on the other side of the street had water 7 feet deep. Mills in Zara Street and Temple Street on the other side of the Medlock were also flooded; chemical works in Jackson St were flooded as was the Hanover Mill in Buxton Street. The Royal Oak pub was flooded. Premises in Mount Street, Ardwick Island. Holt Town in Beswick. Several lives were said to have been lost by the bursting of a reservoir at Blue Pits.Ashton: Severe damage in Ashton, Stalybridge, Mossley and Duckinfield including Mayalls Mills. A number of mills are mentioned including Chadwick’s and Mellors mills in the Tame valley. At Bardsley between Ashton and Oldham a large gasometer was carried away; a man was washed away and drowned.Saddleworth: At Hey Heads some buildings were washed away.Bury: A reservoir failed at Morris Mills Pilsworth and the flood downstream carried away a bridge and a weir at Hollins vale Bleachworks.Oldham: Another reservoir failed and the downstream flood was 40 yards wide and flowed down Manchester Road and Drury Lane, doing great injury to cottages where inmates escaped from windows.Middleton: Many houses were flooded notably in Tong Street. Mills and dyehouses were flooded. A man was drowned in the River Irk below St Michael’s church Tonge.Rochdale: Several mills were flooded. Unequalled flood caused flooding of meadows sometimes to a depth of 2 to 3 yards. In the valley from Todmorden to Wakefield crops are seriously damaged. One man was drowned at Butterworth and a woman was killed by being struck by bricks falling from a chimney hit by lightning. Mills and shops and the Tim Bobbin inn were flooded.Bolton: Some inconvenience was caused by the flooding of cellars and low buildings. The water was from 2 or 3 inches to as many feet in several parts of the town but the severity here was nothing like in other parts of Lancashire.Littleborough: along the road to Todmorden houses and mills were flooded in great numbers. Two canal bridges were swept away. Water flowed like a river through the railway Summit Tunnel causing great damage to mills in the neighbourhood of Walsden Station. The mill at Walmsley at the bottoms was flooded. The River Dar broke downs its embankment on the Burnley Road opposite the police office and flooded 50 to 60 the neighbouring houses and the National School to a depth of one to two yards.Stockport: The thunderstorm lasted 2 hours. The town was completely flooded and the river rose higher than for many years. Great damage has been done to factories which have stopped working. Some damage has been done elsewhere by the bursting of sewers.Near one hundred houses in Cobden and Salford were flooded.The Manchester Courier gives further details of mills flooded and notes that they may well be out of action for some time causing loss of livelihood for workers. The River Medlock rose several feet higher than in 1851 when the Holmfirth reservoir burst.Whitchurch Salop: Rainfall in 3 hours was 3.18 inches. The Chester and Ellesmere canal overflowed and water flowed down the High Street like a stream flooding many of the houses in the centre of town including the Post Office and the Fox and Goose Inn. |
| **14 May 1858****Bolton chronicle 22 May** | Sequence of thunderstorms | Darwen: There was flooding of a few cellar dwellings  |
| **3 Jun 1858****Manchester Courier 5 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Oldham: A thunderstorm with hail caused flooding of houses when the drains could not take the water off. |
| **15 Jun 1858****Bolton chronicle 19 Jun****Lancaster Gaz 26 Jun Manchester courier 26 Jun** | Widespread thunderstorms but little rain usually but much damage from lightning – but locally heavy rain. | Glossop vale: Rain was accompanied by hail and large pieces of ice. At Hayfield the river rose one yard within an hour sapping the foundations of many cottages. River Sett (tributary of Goyt) at Hayfield above A624 bridge SK038868Hayfield: The mountain torrent devastated trees fences and crops. In the town a weir was upturned and the huge stones hurled down the chasm. A printworks and neet Mill suffered severely. Five houses three stories high were washed down and the whole of the back walls fell. The inmates escaped.Thunderstorms in the Peak District of Derbyshire caused flooding which destroyed bridges, flooded mills and washed houses away with the greatest damage done in the village of <Hayfield> through which the River <<Kinder>><<Etherow>> runs; the foundations of five houses were washed away and serious damage to Ned’s mill where the weir was washed away. A similar flood occurred in <Hayfield> in 1809 [Ed. wrong date?] when bodies were washed from graves.Saddleworth: a man was killed by lightning. |
| **7 Jun 1859****Preston Chronicle 11 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Southport: the streets were completely flooded in some places to 6 inches deep and residents had to be taken to their homes in carts. |
| **26 Jun 1859****Manchester Times 2 Jul** |  | Manchester: Rain flooded the streets. Several houses in Broughton and the lower parts of Manchester were flooded.[Storms were also reported in London and the Potteries with deaths by lightning] |
| **18 Jul 1858****Bury times 24 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Radcliffe: Hail and rain completely flooded the streets. A horse was killed by lightning |
| **16 Jul 1859****Manchester courier 23 Jul****Manchester Times 23 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Rain was accompanied by hail and pieces of ice and a strong wind. The storm lasted only half an hour. Roads were flooded in Cheetham Hill and Higher Broughton.Swinton and Worsley: Hailstones the size of large marbles and in some places the hailstones lay more than 2 feet deep. Every pane that was not of plate glass was broken; a pig was killed and crops destroyed.Ashton: some windows in the Catholic chapel were broken.Haslingden: A woman was killed by lightning.Middleton: The main road through the town was like a river with planks and children’s carriages being carried along. A mill was flooded.Oldham: Hail and ice were accompanied by a strong wind caused the breakage of many windows including the Town Hall, the Baptist and Unitarian Chapels and other public buildings. A mill at Lower Moor was flooded.Warrington: Large hailstones with a strong wind caused much damage to windows both in houses and factories, including St James Church Letchford and Trinity church Sankey Street.Bury and Rossendale: Houses were damaged by lightning – no mention of hail or flooding.St Helens: Hail and pieces of ice weighing ½ to 1 ounce and more than an inch in diameter followed a day when temperature reached 85 F. Windows in houses conservatories and hot houses were destroyed.Liverpool: A woman was killed by lightning at Ince.Tranmere: A man was killed by lightning.Neston: Showers of bolts of ice destroyed thousands of window panes.Warrington: In less than three quarters of an hour over 50000 panes of glass were broken by hail, some of which were 4 inches in circumference. In St James church 700 panes were broken. The streets were flooded in many places. |
| **22 Jul 1859****Manchester Times 23 Jul** |  | Oldham: Another storm of rain and hail occurred and cellars were flooded, Mellodew’s Mill behind Church Street was so badly flooded that a hole was made in the wall to let the water escape. |
| **16 Jun 1860 Manchester Courier 23 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Altrincham: Two horses were killed by lighting.Stockport: Rain and hail lasted for one hour. Fields in the lower part of the region were flooded. |
| **21 Jun 1861****Manchester Courier 22/29 Jun****Manchester Times 29 Jun** | Thunderstorm – rain continued for upwards of an hour | Disastrous flood in Saddleworth. Following heavy rain on the moors water came rapidly down the Chew valley and Upperwood Nook and filled the stream of the Broadwater. The meadows were strewn with large boulders some several tons in weight. A road surveyor said the water flowed down in breast waves a yard in height and a few minutes between each one. It had been very dark especially over the Ashway Moss towards the source of the River Chew. The soil on some parts of the moor was completely washed away. Bottomley’s mill at Greenfield was flooded. Three bridges one stone and two wooden were destroyed and many houses were flooded at Nally cottages. At one of them an old woman and two grandchildren were drowned at Clubhouse Cottages. One child was carried out the window and carried over a mile to the Royal George Mill. Others escaped through roofs. Trees were uprooted and farming implements carried away. The flood came down the hills like an avalanche, washing down the bridges and stripping trees of their bark and strewing the meadows with large stones, some several tones in weight. A surveyor said the water came down in breast waves about a yard in height and a few minutes between each. An observer said that in the hills he found a place where the soil was completely washed away and lower down stones several tons in weight were piled up like marbles.The river at Greenfield rose 2 yards above its normal level and it was said to be higher than in the great flood of 1799. Nearby including Ashton no rain fell.River Chew at Greenfield A635 bridge SE000039Stalybridge: The River Tame rose to a considerable height and many places were flooded in Stalybridge and Dukinfield People were injured by lightning and houses were damaged. |
| **23 Jun 1861****Manchester Times 29 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Stalybridge: A severe thunderstorm caused the River Tame which runs through Stalybridge to rise to a considerable height. Many places were flooded in Stalybridge and Duckinfield. One girl was killed and several people were severely injured by lightning. |
| **7/8 Jul 1861****Manchester Courier 13 Jul****Rochdale Observer 13 Jul** | Widespread thunderstorms in England | A man was killed by lightning in Staffordshire.Bolton: A horse was killed by lightning and a man injured.Crawshawbooth: Heavy rain caused a considerable flood.Rawensthall: Rain and hail caused a number of houses to be flooded.Whitworth: The storm mainly over Whitworth Rake rusjed across the road at the Dog and Partridge Inn and flooded Capstick’s beerhouse. The free church schoolroom was flooded with water and covered with debris. A mill was set alight by lightning. |
| **21 Jul 1861****Manchester Courier 27 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Blackburn: A thunderstorm occurred over Darwen causing flooding of streets |
| **7 May 1862****Manchester Courier 10 May****Burnley Advertiser 10 May****Ashton Weekly rep 10 May** | Thunderstorm after a period of oppressive heat | Manchester: The storm came from the southwest and the rain was accompanied by a high wind. Drains soon became flooded. The River Irwell and other streams rose several feet. The Mersey overflowed its banks and flooded meadows.Burnley: The rivers Calder and Brun were both much swollen especially the latter which overflowed its banks and flooded streets and houses. In Water Street the flood left so much debris that 15 tons was carried away by scavengers.Stalybridge: The river rose to as great a height as in the disaster at Greenfield in 1861; a few cellars in Caroline Street were again flooded. The rain descended with great violence along the valley of the Tame and on the high lands in the parish of Saddleworth. The water overflowed the banks and created extensive lakes. The weir at Wright Mill was carried away and several other mills along the Tame were affected. An extensive mill at Bottoms was flooded. Several houses near the canal bridge were also flooded. Although the level was the same as in June 1861 the damage was not so great as there was much less debris – trees bridges etc. |
| **15 Aug 1862****Preston chronicle 20 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Darwen: Many persons were flooded in their dwellings. A cow was killed by lightning. |
| **2 Sep 1862****Rochdale Observer 6 Sep** | thunderstorm | Bacup: Another flood! Yorkshire Street, Bridge Street and St James’s Street were all flooded ‘as might be expected’. |
| **7 Jul 1863****Rochdale Observer 11 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Rochdale: Water flowed down the streets and in Drake Street a wheelbarrow was carried away! No damage was done in Rochdale but much damage was done in adjoining towns. |
| **25 Aug 1863****Manchester Courier 29 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Heavy rain was occurred but with no flooding reported.[Severe thunderstorms occurred in the southeast of England] |
| **15 May 1864****Preston chronicle 21 May** | Thunderstorm | Lancaster: The storm lasted a considerable time and completely flooded the streets. Buildings were damaged by lightning but there was no reference to flooding of property. |
| **20 May 1864****Leigh Chronicle 28 May** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: A woman was struck and killed by lightning on the Cheshire side of the Mersey and various damages were caused to buildings but there was no reference to flooding. |
| **21 May 1865****Manchester courier 23 May****Manchester Times 27 May****Liverpool Mercury 25 May** | Thunderstorm | Preston: Streets were flooded and flood overran grates so that cellars were half flooded and goods spoiled especially on principal streets where water was up to 2 yards deep (in cellars). Fishergate railway station was flooded and water rose to the fireboxes of engines. After the rain came hail the size of marbles. Much glass was broken both in the town and the surrounding areas by hail. In some places the hail was fully an inch in diameter. Some were more like icicles than ordinary hailstones. There was considerable damage to goods in Friargate and in Water Street furniture was floating about. Many shopkeepers in Church Street had goods damaged or destroyed. Liverpool Mercury lists seven mills that were damaged either by egress through the roof or from below. A boy was killed by lightning at Longton and houses were seriously flooded in the same village. There were many reports of lightning killing animals and striking houses. The rain flooded Avenham Park including some schoolsLiverpool: Severe lightning effects on buildings but no flooding reported.Blackburn: A barn was burnt down after being struck with lightning. |
| **8 Jul 1865****Ashton Reporter** | Thunderstorm | Ashton: The storm and heavy rain lasted one hour; much debris of earth and stones was washed from Hough Hill and houses shops and cellars were filled with mud. The greatest damage was done on the Castle Hill. On Hough Hill the water made chasms 5 feet deep. A councillor’s house at Spring bank was flooded. The water flowed down Walmsley, Kay, Kenworthy and Vandrey Streets filling houses and cellars and also in Grosvenor street and Square where virtually every cellar was flooded. At Castle Hill the water flooded houses in High Street with water rushing in the front and out the back. |
| **17 Aug 1865****Lancaster Gaz 19 Aug**  | Waterspout! – but unaccompanied by thunder | Blackpool: an immense fall of rain caused great damage to property. Cellars were suddenly filled including those of hotels and several shops were flooded in Bank Hey Street |
| **5 Jun 1866****Bury times 9 Jun** | thunderstorm | Heavy rain was generally welcomed due to previous dry weather. There is no reference to flooding. |
| **5 Sep 1866****Manchester Courier 6 Sep** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Rain with hail quickly flooded the streets as well as the entrance to shops. The hailstones were of unusual size.[Severe flooding occurred in the London area] |
| **15-17 Nov 1866****British Rainfall****JBA Ribble Report****Manchester courier 19 Nov****Warrington Advertiser**  | No reference to thunder or rate of rise | Very high rainfall but principally in S Yorks and LancsMajor flood on the Ribble and all its tributaries and also on all the adjoining catchments on both sides of the Pennines including the Lune, Aire, Calder (Yorks), Mersey. The flood of 1866 caused the most serious and widespread flooding throughout the Ribble catchment over the last 200 years, affecting both upland tributaries and the main river as far as Preston, where there were serious consequences even within the tidal reach. This was in spite of the fact that the tide was one of the lowest of the month. Local newspapers provided a detailed description of the effects of the flood including major flooded property and the depth or extent at certain locations. Exceptional flooding also occurred on the Lune and on the Aire and Calder in Yorkshire.It has not been possible in this review to assess the discharge associated with this flood, but it is possible that information on flooded locations or depths may be able to be used for this purpose. Although many buildings and even streets have been demolished since 1866, it is likely that discharge can be assessed from the peak water level at some existing sites which have remained unchanged.Of particular interest is the boat house at Samlesbury where flood stones from earlier eighteenth century floods (1771 and 1775) were recorded and compared with the flood of 1866. This is in the reach where detailed hydraulic modelling will be carried out. If the mill still exists and the levels determined, then discharge may be readily assessed (assuming that no significant changes in the control have occurred during the period)Descriptions are provided below by tributary and by reach or town. It is recognised that details may be fuller at some locations than at others depending on the source of the information. A comprehensive search was not possible in this review.1866 - WeatherInformation on rainfall causing the flood is imprecise both in amount and duration. There is reference at Burnley to the ‘downpouring of Thursday (15th) night continuing on Friday morning’. Selected annual maximum daily rainfall totals in British Rainfall are divided between 15th and 16th. At this early stage of rainfall recording it is possible that some stations recorded on the day of measurement and some to the previous day. Several Lancashire stations recorded 1.5 to 2.0 inches on 15th, but none on the Ribble catchment. On 16th Blackburn recorded 2.10 and Stonyhurst (Preston WW) (Location ?) recorded 3.87. Halifax had 3.25 over the two days. It was reported that rain stopped Clitheroe at 15.00 and at Preston at 14.00There is no evidence of any snowmelt contribution. Temperature at Warrington from a.m. on 15th did not fall below 44oF. After the rain stopped, the temperature dropped rapidly to 24oC on 17thThe rain was accompanied by a SW wind from Wed 14 to Friday 16. The wind turned NE and rain ceased at 15.00 (at Clitheroe). The rain was accompanied by rapidly falling pressure until 09.00 on 16th (988.6 Mb), rising sharply to 1021.5 Mb at 09.00 on 17th.On the Darwen at Blackburn the flood was reported to be at its highest at 18.30. At Preston the Ribble began to rise rapidly at 17.00, overflowed its banks at 19.00 and reached a peak at 22.30. Given cessation of rainfall at 14.00, the centre of area of rainfall was rather earlier. This suggests a lag time as great if not greater than in the recent recorded floods of smaller magnitude.1866 - Calder - BurnleyBoth the Brun and Calder were in flood though the effects from the Brun were said to be more serious. Overflow from the Leeds and Liverpool Canal also had an effect and this was said to be the source of water which rushed down Ship Alley, flooding the street that leads to the Gasworks. On Fletcher Street, cellars on the left were flooded. Water was within a foot of the top of the doors. On Heap Alley cellars and some houses were flooded. Water poured down Manchester Road like a torrent and Pickup Delph was flooded several yards deep.The River Brun flooded many properties in the vicinity of Bridge Street. The bridge arch was unable to convey the flow and water flowed over the top. The afflux at the bridge exacerbated flooding in Water Street and Cannon Court. Cannon Street was flooded on both sides. “The Brun rose up Water Street, to the right along Cannon Street and poured into Bridge Street and down to the bridge, the safety of which was doubted”. To the left of the bridge the water rushed against a wall on the left of Fleet Street. A footbridge from the Old Brewery to the Market Place was washed away.The Calder covered the road on both sides of the bridge at Burnley Wood and flooded the low-lying parts of Townley Park. Many houses in Newtown were flooded at Bridge End and cellars in Cheapside, rushing through the Cross Keys Inn. At Curzon Street bridge, water entered houses on the Park side, forcing occupants to their upper stories.Mills adjacent to the river were flooded. At Parsonage Mills shed, water covered the looms. Rushworth’s mill on the right of the Brun was undermined. Damage was done to Mr Barnes’ caul (?) below Cannon Street bridge. Mill weirs at Pleasant Ford were taken down and a stone bridge at Netherwood Farm was washed away.1866 - Calder - PadihamThe flood water washed away an embankment known as the Nook of the Hown “which had been put up many years before to prevent the lower portion of the town from being flooded which was sometimes the case previously”. However the damage was far greater after the failure of the embankment and damage greater than known by the oldest inhabitants. A great many mills and sheds were flooded. The following were listed: Wm Ingham and Sons - the highest and least affected Lilley Weaving shed Alma Shed Shed of Whittakers Sherburn and Watson’s Mill Britannia Mill Spa MillIn the shed of Mr Gregson’s (?), water was within a few inches of the height of the looms; in others about 2 feet deep. The timber yard was flooded. All the houses and shops in Burnley Road from Padiham Bridge to Gas Street were flooded with a depth from 1 to 3 feet. All the houses in Waddington Street, Tattersall Street, Sager Street, Myersclough Street and Gas Street were also flooded. The Gasworks was flooded and no gas could be made.Another report noted that the Coal Tramway bridge was washed away, partly blocking Padiham Bridge and raising the upstream water level. Scores of houses shops and cellars were flooded from the bridge to the mill of J. Hindle and Co. In Thompson’s mill the water was 3 feet 4 inches deep.1866 - Calder - WhalleyThe town was flooded to a greater extent than known by the oldest inhabitant; several dwellings were a few inches deep in water which had never been known to flood before. One house was flooded to the mantelpiece.1866 - Upper Ribble - ClitheroeFlooding occurred both from the Ribble and from the Wilkin Brook. The accounts did not usually distinguish whether the flooding resulted from one or the other. The Ribble flooded Garnett and Horsfall’s new weaving shed at Low Moor. At Waddington Lane railway bridge the water rose 9 feet, stopping all traffic.The Wilkin Brook flooded houses at Waterloo to a depth of 18 inches. Bracewells Mill was flooded; the water got into flues and put out the fires. Water was into houses at Taylor Fields to a depth of 4 feet. Robinsons Mill and Dewhurst’s Albion Mill were flooded. Water was held back at Wilkin Bridge; 30 yards of wall was washed down and many houses flooded to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Victoria Mill and Salford Bridge Mill were flooded. In Salford water was in many houses to a depth of 3 feet. Houses in Water Street were flooded. Hodgson’s Mill was flooded.1866 - HyndburnA dam at Church was overtopped and failed and two houses washed away. Fortunately the occupants had been warned in advance and escaped. There was resulting damage at Dunkenhaigh and Oakenshaw. Bridges to Rippon and Barton’s Printworks were carried away and water entered the printworks. Wilkinson’s Print Works is further from the river and only the adjoining joiner’s shop was affected. Water covered the retorts at the gas works and fires were put out. Hyndburn Bridge was demolished and several houses near it flooded. Five houses at Tanpits were flooded.At Great Harwood, several streets were flooded, a few wooden bridges washed away. Cottages, a few mills and workshops were flooded; Mr Noble’s mill was the greatest loser.1866 - Darwen - DarwenDamage was done at Hollins’ Paper Mill and at the Logwood Mill machinery was inundated.1866 - Darwen - BlackburnDamage was done along the whole route of the Blakewater from the cemetery, near which many cottages and a weaving shed were flooded. “4000 operatives at mills were forced into idleness on Friday as a result of damage done to weft and yarn”. The river overflowed its banks at Brookhouse and flooded the mills of Hornby and Co and Mr Ward. Follywell Street, Merchant Street and mill were flooded as were Mr Eastwood’s machine works. Houses in Water Street were flooded to 12 to 18 inches. Jubilee Mill was flooded and the water was into the timber yard at Darwen Street.The lower part of the borough was flooded to 4 feet including the Wrangling district, embracing Harrison, Brunswick and Pearson Streets and the lower portion of King Street and streets adjoining Mr Livesey’s Mill and part of Whalley Banks. It was noted that some houses in the Wrangling are flooded to some extent twice a year, but this was far beyond previous experience.The footbridge at the foot of Anvil Street was carried away. The timber yard in Harrison Street was severely affected. Six or seven cotton mills were stopped - Jackson’s Phoenix mill was flooded to 2 feet; also Slater’s, Livesey’s, Sellars’ Fielding’s Higton and Sharples’ Hopwood and Co. Hornby and Co Banktop mill was also closed.Low lying land in the vicinity of St Peter’s Church was flooded including the foundry of Stafford and McCallan and into cottages in adjoining streets. There was general flooding of the Wrangling district. Several mills were stopped. Pleasington valley was a considerable lake; Hogton Bottoms was a complete sea of water, flooding several cottages and workshops.1866 - HodderNo information was given but this may be more the result of the absence of reports rather than the absence of flooding.1866 - Lower Ribble above PrestonAt Ribchester some people had to be removed to safety from their cottages.At Samlesbury the flood washed away the surface earth of fields. “On the boat house at Samlesbury, the height of the last two great floods, one in 1771 and the other in 1775 are marked on a stone. The flood in the latter was about 4 or 5 inches higher than in the former and about 7 inches higher than the one which occurred last Friday. But there was not the same ‘flowing space’ for the water nor the same outlet for it as now.” It was thought that 1866 was the greater flood.1866 - Ribble - Preston/Walton/PenworthamAll the land from the base of Fishergate Bottoms to the bottom of the embankment near Walton was a sheet of water. “The Ribble and the Darwen are one”. Several farm houses were flooded including Mr Strickland’s farmhouse and barn.From Walton Bridge, the river stretches right across the meadows above and below Frenchwood to Walton Mill. The old portion of Avenham Park was filled up and rose much above the level of the lake in the park. Miller Park was similarly flooded and the fountain was out of sight.Below the North Union Railway bridge, there was a sea of water with houses jutting out of it. Occupants bundled furniture upstairs and sailed off to Fishergate Hill. People in the centre of South Meadow Lane were hemmed in on all sides to a depth of 3 to 4 feet and were eventually removed in boats. The cricket ground adjoining South Meadow was flooded to 4 to 5 feet. Some houses were also flooded at the bottom of Grafton, Landerdale and Beech Streets. It overflowed the end of Ribble Place and ran in at the end of Taylor Street and flowed up towards Regatta Inn where at the peak of the flood it was running at a dept of 4 feet past his door.Workmen had to abandon Strand Road and move to Fishergate Hill. The river flowed along Ribble Place, then entered Taylor Street, then branched off by a passage into Lime Street, took a straight move across the bottom of Fishergate Hill and along Strand Road. At its peak (at 10.30 pm)the water was running through Elm Street (above Lime Street).All the back premises of the Taylor Street houses were flooded to a depth of several feet. Some houses were flooded at Beech Street. At Fishergate Hill, water had risen as high as the base of Stanley Terrace. It covered the Ribble Branch Railway. Humber’s Mill at the bottom of Marsh Lane was flooded to several feet and the waggon works were also inundated.The water was right up to Penwortham and from the Preston side it seemed to be swamped from beside the new church past the foot of the Oaks (Mr Cooper’s) and right on the brow leading up to the old church. Penwortham Holme was one sheet of water and the water covered the field behind right up to the wood. Gillibrand’s farmstead just below the Holmes was soon surrounded by water (as it had been on many previous occasions) and was tremendously inundated. Two small cottages opposite Swallow House were completely washed down.After the flood it was reported that Strand Road had been washed quite bare and looked more like the bed of a river. Sleepers on the Ribble branch railway were washed away. An embankment between Ribble Place and Penwortham bridge had been washed down. The foundations of the Pleasure Boat Inn were exposed to the ‘very bottom’ and it was feared the house and buildings would be washed away.At Walton a wall of Calvert Bros. factory was swept down and water covered the factory floor. Damage at the mill was estimated at £4000 and in the village as a whole at £20000. The Regatta Inn was surroundedSUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS1. A record of the major floods that have occurred on the catchment since the latter part of the eighteenth century has been provided with summary descriptions of flood extent where available. A more complete description of the flood of 1866 is given.2. Given the extent of damage and disruption in this flood it is highly probable that the associated discharge is much greater than the 100 year return period flood estimated from the data. The possibility of two further floods of similar magnitude (in 1771 and 1775) in a 250 year period gives support to the possibility that such an event occurs with an average recurrence interval of the order of 100 years, suggesting a steepening of the flood frequency distribution at higher return periods.3. The two flood stones at the Boat house in Samlesbury, if still in existence, or if there is photographic evidence of their level, might be used to assess the discharge for these three largest floods. If this is done, a parallel study of the downstream reach of channel should be carried out to assess changes in control.4. There may be sufficient information at several other sites, where the flood level has been described (in public houses, mills etc.) to assess flood discharge in individual events.5. The flood levels described for the flood of 1866 may be compared with the flood levels assessed from flood frequency and hydraulic analysis.Manchester: At Manchester such floods have rarely been seen here; the Irwell was 25 feet above its ordinary level and has not been so high since the Holmfirth catastrophe Feb 5 1852. Three men were drowned in the Manchester area. Along the course of the River Medlock the following places were flooded; a coachbuilder near Ardwick bridge, houses in Tipping St, Tennant’s Chemical Works, a spinning mill at Jackson Street and an iron works, a dyeing company at Brook Street and scores of other places along the river. Inhabitants left their houses in Broughton and Strangeways where buildings had become unstable.Ashton: Printworks in the Tame Valley were flooded as were several other millsStalybridge: A number of houses were flooded in Bridge Street.Hyde: The whole stretch from above Brook Stair Bridge to Glasshouse Fold bridge was a sheet of water. AT Broom Stair the water rose 14 feet above its ordinary level and was within a few feet of the arch of the bridge. The water rose to within 4 feet of the Great flood of August 1799 at Gibraltar Mills.Marple and Compstall: Marple Bridge forge weir was reduced to a wreck. Norfolk Arms and other houses were flooded. An iron bridge was carried away. One man was drowned at Duckinfield.Stockport: Many mills were flooded, some to a depth of 7 feet. At Wellington Bridge the water was about 14 feet above its usual level.Wigan: Large numbers of houses were flooded.Rufford (Lancashire) reported a ‘greater flood than for 30 years’.Warrington: Water rose to a height not known for 30 to 40 years and was within a yard of the apex of Warrington bridge. Many houses were flooded some to 3 feet deep. Haystacks, horses, sheep and pigs were seen washed past Bank Quay. All the mills and warehouses have been flooded. At Warrington the record of the height of two previous floods is preserved on the house of Mr J Lea No 8 of the riverside row of houses in Latchford. Two brass plates are fastened; the highest shows the flood mark of a flood on St Swithin’s Day 1828 and the lower one reads St Thomas’ Day 1837 and is 3 inches lower. The 1866 flood is 6 inches below the St Thomas Day marker. A brass plate will be placed there.In the lowest room of Howley Quay warehouse there is the following record chalked on a beam. ‘A flood 14 inches in this warehouse floor on Jul 15th 1828’. On Nov 17 1866 it rose to a height of 19 inches, 5” higher than in 1828 and this 1828 flood is the highest remembered by Mr Bercow the engineer employed by the Bridgewater Trust who has been there 40 years. Outside the room on the west corner of the warehouse is a stone marked HW 1828 which is 2’ 4 ½ ” from the ground. In this flood the level was a ½ inches lower than this mark. Elsewhere it is stated that floods in Warrington were equalled only by those of Jul 15 1828, and Dec 21 1837. |
| **10 May 1867 BR** | Manchester (Friesland) 1.60” in 30 m | <Manchester>: The storm tore up roads on the hill side. |
| **28 May 1867****Ashton weekly reporter 1 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Mossley: Rain fell in torrents for 2 hours; one house at Brookbottom was flooded to several inches. Some damage was caused to highways. |
| **10 Jul 1867****Manchester Courier 12 Jul****Preston chronicle 13 Jul****Blackburn Standard 17 Jul** | Thunderstorm and early part of the day was extremely hot. At Royton 2 ½ inches rain fell in an hour and a half. | Oldham: A thunderstorm occurred in Saddleworth and extended over the eastern portion of Oldham. A girl was killed by lightning. Several animals were killed and buildings were struck. The main damage was caused by flooding and many cellars were flooded including those at Bottom o’ th’ Moor. The main sewer was unable to carry off the water. At Royton 2 ½ inches fell in an hour and a half but at the western end of the town scarcely any rain fell. At the western end of the town scarcely any rain fell.Manchester: the River Medlock had risen 7 or 8 feet overnight and rose with unexampled suddenness. The body of a woman was found in the river next morning. Phillips Park cemetery was flooded to 4 or 5 feet and coffins were floating about. The inquest concluded she had been washed out of a grave.Accrington (11th) Thunderstorm with hail and a man was struck and seriously injured. Great Harwood: Houses in low lying places were flooded. A cow and a horse were killed by lightning. The storm was very localised. |
| **13 Jul 1867****Manchester Times 20 Jul** | thunderstorm | Bolton: The storm lasted about 1 ½ hours and in a very short time the River Croal roase several feet and many cellars and other low lying places were flooded in some cases to several feet. A hayrick was ignited by lightning. At Farnworth the railway was flooded with the rails several inches under water. |
| **19 Aug 1867****BR** |  | A great thunderstorm at night; River Hipper flooded higher than for 20 years; trees swept away and people removed from upper stories in boats in Shipley Street; Claycross tunnel flooded trains delayed 5 hours. On 20th at Duffield near Derby 2 hour thunderstorm with 2.34” |
| **3 Sep 1867****Ashton Reporter 7 Sep** |  | Ashton: Severe thunderstorm but only damage to crops reported.Stalybridge: Grates were choked by earth washed down from the higher portions of the town and several cellars were flooded. Houses were struck and damaged at Duckinfield and HydeOldham: A man was killed by lightning. |
| **19 May 1868****Liverpool Daily Post 20 May** | Thunderstorm with hail | Liverpool: Dale Street near the top of North John street was flooded as were Whitechapel and many other streets in the lower part of the town. In the cellars in Compton House in Church Street the water rose to a height of 5 feet from backed up sewers. |
| **27 Jun 1869****Bolton Evg News 29 Jun** | Storm lasted about 1 ½ hours but with limited thunder and confined to an area 4 miles in circumference. | Chorley: In a very few minutes the streets and roads were under water and several cellar dwellings were completely swamped – and this in the higher portion of the town. The cellars of the Leigh Arms and the Queens Hotel were flooded. In the lower part of the town houses were flooded to such a depth that it was feared it might reach the bedrooms. Ballast on the railway was washed away for about a mile |
| **1 Oct 1869****Manchester Courier 2 Oct** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool Cellars in all parts of the city were flooded.Bootle: A large sewer burst and flooded the neighbourhood. |
| **3 Oct 1869****Bolton Evg news 4 Oct** | Thunderstorm | Chorley: In a very short time the Market Street was rendered almost impassable and the water found its way into tradesmen’s cellars |
| **17 Jun 1870****BR****Yorkshire Post 18 Jun** | Storm followed a drought and high temperatures 80F | Bolton: The thunderstorm lasted nearly 2 hours. The main sewer near the river in Bridge Street burst washing a great quantity of earth and bricks into the river. The River Croal rose 3 feet and a number of low lying houses in the area known as Twenty Steps were flooded to a depth of 4 to 5 feet. A slaughter house in the vicinity was flooded. The cellars of several shops in Blackburn Road were also flooded to a depth of nearly 5 feet. The cellars of the Waggon Inn were also flooded. |
| **9 Jul 1870****BR****JBA Ribble Report****Manchester Times 16 Jul****Archer and Fowler (2015)** | Severe thunderstorm | BR notes Remarkable floods described at Todmorden and Bacup (Upper Calder) and also at Dent. BR gives 6 ½ pages of description contained in BR Todmorden flood file. (Note also a report in Met Mag 5 p 105 by Sedgewick). Note the very circumscribed area of the storm with perfectly fine weather prevailing all around the storm area. The rain at Todmorden and Bacup occurred between 14.00 and 15.00. there was a sudden rise in water level at Todmorden soon after which in a few minutes overflowed its banks and left the lower part of the town completely under water with one house destroyed and a woman swept away and water swept through many mills destroying looms etc. The Calder through Burnley rose 4 feet above its ordinary level in an incredibly short timeReference was made to a similar flood in Bacup on 9 August 1849.A serious thunderstorm, accompanied with an extraordinary fall of rain occurred in the neighbourhood of Lancaster and Morecambe. But the most serious visitation was in the eastern section of the county, between Haslingden and Burnley. Between Townley and Portsmouth the adjoining fields were about two yards deep with water, and nearly every house in the immediate district was flooded. The valley from Portsmouth to Todmorden was inundated, and it is feared that a bridge belonging to the line below the latter station will fall. The line was blocked in several places, and the traffic was suspended for several hours. Many of the small villages in East Lancashire were flooded, and it is feared that much damage has been done in some of them.Heavy rainfall occurred on Flower Scar, a moor which separates Bacup from Todmorden. Burnley: A storm passed over with unremitting force, for upwards of two hours. The river Calder, which passes through Burnley, was very much swollen, and rose in an incredibly short time, something like four feet above its ordinary level. The streets in several parts of the town presented the appearance of an unbroken stream. Men, women, and children could be seen wading through the water knee jeep, whilst here and there were to be seen floating on the water stray pieces of furniture. In Fletcher-street, and near the cattle market, were to be seen many cart loads of furniture, which had been hastily recovered from the houses, indiscriminately heaped up, whilst in Cannon-street, and in Wapping, almost every cellar was flooded, and in many instances the houses also. Large quantities of newly-mown hay were either washed away or completely spoiled by the wind and rain. In Manchester Road many tons of the macadam were washed towards the lower parts of the town, and a number of carts were engaged for a good many hours in clearing the streets. The Cross Keys public house, in Newtown, the landlord of which has just recovered from the Burnley Corporation a sum of money for damage sustained in a recent storm, was very considerably damaged, whilst the streets thereabouts were many inches deep in water. Portsmouth: About three miles from Burnley, the line was blocked up for a considerable time by sediment washed from the hills, the water on some parts of the line covering the steps of the carriages.  Accrington: Considering the violent nature of the storm, the damage done is inconsiderable, chiefly arising from the flooding of some of the cellars in the lower parts of the town.Bacup: Several persons concur in saying that waterspouts, similar to what are sometimes seen in tropical latitudes, were at one time distinctly visible. The storm raged for about an hour and a half, and, with but few exceptions, flooded all the streets of the town. Most of the mills are built along the banks of the river Irwell, in some instances over the river, and all of them have sustained more or less damage. At Vale Mill, the flood swept down one of the walls of the weaving shed, burst the arch for a distance of several yards, and, in a few minutes, and for several hours afterwards, a perfect torrent of water was dashing through the middle of the building. Several of the looms also fell into the river. At Nut Mill the damage is of a similar character, but on a more extended scale. At this place a large wall in the middle of the weaving shed has been washed down, and the roof has also partially fallen in. Here the water entered the weaving shed and destroyed a large quantity of weft and cloth. At Albion Mill the flood entered the weaving shed, and soon all the looms were completely covered. Aitkin’s mill premises in Burnley Road, has been completely destroyed, a large portion of the roof being carried down the river for a distance of several hundred yards. The flood also entered the weaving room of Shepherd’s mill, in the same street, and completely covered the looms. Irwell Mill, belonging to the Rossendale Industrial Company, Limited, is a total wreck. The flood entered the weaving sheds at both Spring Holme and Throstle Mill, belonging to Messrs. John Mander and Son, Newchurch-road, and also at the India and New Hey Mills, belonging to Mr. Edward Hoyle. The damage done to house and other property is on a scale of the most frightful magnitude. At one time, in St. James' Street, the water was rushing along at a fearful pace to the depth of 5 feet 9 inches, bearing along on its bosom every conceivable kind of merchandise and of household goods. As an instance of the force of the flood, we may mention that a railway lorry, heavily laden with cloth, and without horses, was carried a distance of 100 yards as though it had been a boat. So suddenly did the flood come that the occupants of the different shops and houses had scarcely time to close their doors, much less to attempt to save any of their property, but were glad to escape to the upper rooms of their premises. Many tradesmen had everything, even until it came to their weights and scales, swept out of their shops, and some, it is feared, will be completely ruined. The Bacup Co-operative Store have lost the whole of their stock in the gutta-percha department. In numerous instances houses have been stripped of the whole of their furniture. Notwithstanding the heavy loss of property that the flood has caused, it is satisfactory to learn that not a single life has been sacrificed, but we have heard of several narrow escapes. Had the flood occurred in the night time, the loss of life would have been something terrible to contemplate. An almost similarly destructive flood visited Bacup on the 9th of August, 1849.River Irwell at Bacup at Henrietta street SD870227Clitheroe: the storm lasted for 2 ½ hours. A barn was set alight by lightning. There was no reference to flooding.Thunderstorms affected upper Calder and Darwen in the vicinity of Accrington, Burnley; also Todmorden and Bacup. At Burnley, the River Calder rose 2 to 3 yards in height following scarcely an hour’s rainfall and overflowed its embankment. Water did most damage in that part of St James Street known as Cheapside. Water ran 4 feet deep through Cross Keys public house and shops and houses adjacent and across the road were flooded in some cases to a yard and a half deep. Low Lane was flooded and houses stood 2 feet deep in water. Manchester Road (unmacadamised) ploughed up. In Fletcher Street furniture was recovered from flooded houses. In Cannon Street and Wapping almost every cellar was flooded and in many instances the houses also.River Calder at Active Way Bridge SD837326 |
| **26 Jul 1870****Ashton Reporter 30 Jul** | Thunderstorm following oppressive heat.Hail and rain for upwards of 1 hour. | Stalybridge: Rain quickly flooded the lower portion of the town finding its way into cellars. The Eagle Inn near Stamford street county bridge was flooded to a depth of more than a foot. Several houses in Vaudrey Street were flooded to a depth of 1 foot 3 inches. Some grocer’s cellars were also flooded.Tintwistle: Two horses were killed by lightning. Many houses in the village were flooded |
| **25 March 1871****Manchester Evg news 27 Mar** | Thunderstorm for an hour and a half | Manchester: a thunderstorm was reported but no reference was made to flooding.Preston: The lower parts of the town were flooded. |
| **19 Jun 1871 Ashton Reporter 24 Jun****Manchester Times 24 Jun** |  | Ashton: The sewers were inadequate in Turner Lane and flooding occurred. Water came down in torrents from Hurst. Furniture was floating in rooms and residents retreated upstairs. In Winton and ? almost every house was flooded to several inches and a warehouse was also flooded. The footway under the railway was some feet deep in water. The Ashton Mechanics Institute was set alight by lightning.Wigan: A woman was killed by lightning and three cows were killed. The ground was covered with hailstones to a depth of 1 inch and growing crops were damaged.Atherton and Tyldsley: The storm lasted 3 hours with rain mixed with hail and the water rushed down the streets as though a reservoir had burst. Scores of houses were inundated. Bridgefoot Cotton Mill was set alight. Mills were flooded and serious damage done. Low lying houses especially in the Bag Lane area were flooded up to their window sills. Water rushed in the windows of Hindsford Foundry. Scores of houses were flooded in Chowbent. A mill in Bedford Leigh was also damaged although there was little rain there. |
| **9 Jul 1871****Manchester Times 15 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Ashton: Anglers were struck by lightning and lost their rods.Clitheroe : A cow was killed and a house damaged by lightning.Blackburn: Streets were flooded and Blakewater was enormously swollen. |
| **18 Aug 1871****BR****Westmorland Gaz 26 Aug** | Kendal 3.05” in 3 hrsBurton 1.45” in 45 mins 2.30 to 3.15 |  [Thunderstorms were widespread in northern England in most cases with serious fatalities and damage from lightning but little rain or flooding]Nothing in Manchester papers |
| **18 Jun 1872****Westmoreland Gazette 22 Jun****Manchester times 22 Jun****BR** | Newton Nurseries (17th) 0.95 in 35 mMacclesfield Thunderstorm lasting nearly 12 hours; rain for 10 hours, in which the (here) unprecedented fall of 4.27 was registered; serious damage by floods in the town and district.Casterton, Kirkby Lonsdale. Hot, dark morning, at 9 a.m., temp. 75°, with a gentle S.S.W. wind, which gradually veered to W.; by 11.15 a.m. the clouds in the west portended a storm, which came on at 11.37; it followed the course of the Fells, which have a northerly direction, and so great was the downpour of hail and rain that in 18 min. there fell 1.34 in. being at the rate of 1 yard deep in 8 hours, or 4 ½ in. in an hour; temp, fell from 79° to 65°, and the hailstones were more than half-an-inch in diameter.  |  [Widespread thunderstorms with deaths from lightning and flooding occurred in England, notably at Manchester, Oldham, Birmingham and Yorkshire. More thunderstorms occurred on 24th especially Staffordshire.Manchester: Thunderstorm lasting from 6 pm to midnight. Lightning damage to a mill at Gaythorn was reported. A child was killed by lightning at Weaste.Goyt valley: On 19th the Goyt was 12 to 14 feet above its normal level. At Whaley Bridge houses near the river were completely flooded and people were taken into the chapel and inns. At New Mills where the Goyt is joined by the Kinder, two blocks of a paper works were washed away. Two stone weirs were washed away and two bridges. At Waterside Disley a cotton mill was badly damaged. At Strines a stone bridge was partly washed away. A gasometer was lifted from its basin and tossed on the river bank. At Marple several houses were flooded. The Pineapple Inn was damaged by lightning. At Romiley a stone bridge was washed away. A bridge near Taxal church was destroyed. At Chapel en le Frith a severe landslide occurred onto the Midland Railway and a train was wrecked when it hit the debris.Burnley: Low lying districts were flooded but there is no reference to houses.Bury: Rain was accompanied by large hailstones, several streets were flooded and the Barn Brook overflowed. The Star Inn Freetown was struck and seriously damaged. Other houses and mills were also struck.Oldham and Rochdale: Damage was done by lightning but no flooding was reported.A child was drowned in mid Cheshire when a house in Winsford was deeply flooded.Northwich: A large part of the town was under water; the River Weaver overflowed its banks. The High Street was flooded to a depth of 3 to 4 feet with some occupants rescued by boat. The Rivers Dane and Weaver overflowed. The court room was flooded within 30 minutes of first observation and trials continued for a time with participants standing on forms and chairs before it was adjourned; the water was 3 to 4 feet deep. The saltworks of Anderton and Winsford were flooded and the fires put out at the latter place. A child was washed out of a house at midnight and drowned. A great many houses were flooded.Macclesfield: a woman and child were drowned when the river Bollin overflowed. Two reservoirs burst in the vicinity |
| **24 Jun 1872****York Herald 29 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Ormskirk: The railway was completely inundated and paved footpaths around the town were washed up. Several buildings were struck by lightning. |
| **6 Jul 1872****Manchester times 13 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Macclesfield: the thunderstorm was of short duration but intense. In the Bollin the water was said to have risen 5 feet in 3 minutes. Many sewers in the street burst and many houses were flooded. Mills were flooded and a house was struck by lightning and left in ruins.River Bollin at Macclesfield at A 537 Bridge SJ925735River Bollin at Dunham Massey Gauging station SJ827875 |
| **10 Jul 1872****BR** | Newton Nurseries 1.20 in 1 h 30 m |  |
| **13 Jul 1872****Manchester Times 20 Jul****BR** | Rain almost incessant during the past week but for two days a continuous downpour.Only in Bury and Bacup was a thunderstorm mentioned but this was the day before the continuous rain which caused damage elsewhere.Caton (12th) 0.84 in 30 m | Manchester: the River Medlock overflowed its banks to an extent which eclipsed all former floods including the one in 1866. The districts bordering the Medlock, which flows through Manchester from Phillips Park to Knott Mill, has been quite laid under water and affected some of the most populous parts of the city. The districts affected include Bradford, Beswick, Ancoats, Fairfield Street, London road, Brook Street, Charles Street, Oxford Road and on through Gaythorn. The Medlock at its peak was 21 feet above its normal level. Many streets were impassable for six hours including the London road which is the main artery with depths from 2 to 5 feet. Hundreds of houses were flooded with water rising in some to the bedrooms. At 12.00 the Medlock was only 3 or 4 feet above its normal level but by 3.30 it was 20 feet above it ordinary level at London Road bridge. The cemetery at Phillips park was flooded and bodies washed out of graves. [Manchester Times has several columns of detailed description of the flood]Fallowfield and Withington: A reservoir burst at Gorton and flooded houses in Fallowfield to a depth of 3 to 4 feet. A 17-year old boy was drowned attempting to retrieve a table from the flood.Stretford and Sale: The countryside between these locations was under water with great damage to crops and hay. At Throstle Nest Weir the Irwell was within 15 inches of the flood of 1866; the Manchester Raceground was flooded. Salford: The Irwell was 13 feet above its ordinary level and 6 feet three inches below the level of the 1866 flood. Cellars and works around Broughton were flooded but the effects were not as severe here as elsewhere.Eccles and Patricroft: Large portions of Liverpool were laid under water. Gildabrook burst its culvert and adjacent houses were flooded. At Bencliffe Mill the river was 14 feet above its normal level. Blackley and Crumpsall: A dam burst, a stone bridge and a weir were washed away. Many mills were flooded and nearby a young man was drowned attempting to retrieve timber from the river.Middleton: Ten cotton mills were flooded and extensive dyeworks in Tonge and Rhodes were closed due to flooding and 2000 employees laid off. An iron bridge over the Irk was carried away as well as four wooden bridges.150 cottages were flooded at Little Park.Stalybridge: The river rose rapidly to nearly fill the arch of the stone bridge at Stamford Street. A wooden bridge gave way when a man and horse were crossing. The man was rescued some distance downstream but the horse was drowned.Ashton under Lyme: Water rose to 4 feet depth in three major mills and a brewery was also flooded. A bridge under construction was carried away. Factories and a brewery were flooded at Bardsley. A man was drowned when the bank on which he was standing gave way.Stockport: the Mersey rose to within 6 inches of the mark from the flood of 16 Nov 1866. The volume of the Tame was not so great as in 1866 but the Goyt was as high as in 1866. The lower storeys of the mills on the Mersey below the Goyt and Tame confluence were flooded. Twelve works are named in MT.Bolton: A reservoir burst and damaged the downstream mill. Mills at Charnley were flooded. Many cottages were flooded.Bury: Flooding was caused by a thunderstorm. A dam at Tottington burst and the water flowed down Tottington Brook, a tributary of the Irwell. Four mills were seriously damaged and in one the weavers had to climb on top of their looms to safety. Four or five wooden bridges were washed away. A mill chimney was damaged by lightning and nearly a score of houses was struck.Oldham: Werneth Railway station was flooded and the water rushed out of the station towards Middleton Junction carrying away part of the embankment. Lees Hall Mill was badly flooded to a depth of 13 feet. Mills and houses were flooded at Cow Hill Chadderton. A bleaching works was carried away and in one mill employees escaped through skylights. All the cellars of dwellings and workshops in Mumps were flooded to 5 to 6 feet. Part of the wall of St Mary’s Churchyard was washed away and some human bones were carried off. Bacup: The town and the whole of the forest of Rossendale experienced a thunderstorm with hailstones. The Burnley Road was like a river for about two hours. Several mills were flooded. In Greavesfold and Tong nearly all the houses were flooded and debris to a depth of one yard had accumulated. The streets with the most damage were St James Street, Bridge St, Weir Terrace, South St, Irwell St and Burnley road. Several cattle were killed by lightning.Saddleworth: the River Tame washed away Pingle Mill bridge above Delph and many houses were flooded in Delph and an iron bridge washed away. Several mill dams burst causing much damage to mills. At Upper Mill the water overflowed the main road bridge and the water passed down the main road and flooded all the houses to a depth of several feet. At Halls below Upper Mills a bridge was washed away and a drunk man was drowned there attempting to crossMossley: the river was said to be at its highest ever known. Two bridges near Greenfield were swept away and the stone bridge near Roaches was damaged. The Winterworth Bridge, two bridges at Scout and the Black Rock bridge were all swept away. From Greenfield to Scout the river and the canal were joined and the canal bank destroyed at Scout making a chasm 20 yards wide and 8 yards deep. Many mills were deeply flooded.Leigh: Vast tracts of land were covered but in Leigh itself effects were limited but in neighbouring villages serious flooding occurred. At Low Side Lowton a number of cottages were flooded. The village of Bury Lane was almost completely submergedWigan: the river Douglas which flows through the town overflowed its banks, many houses were flooded and bridges impassable. Works along the river were flooded. A child was drowned at Adlington. Pigs and pigstys were washed away.  |
| **24/25 Jul 1872 Manchester Times****BR 1919** | Thunderstorms – 2 in Manchester travelling north to south | Manchester: no damage reportedLiverpool: Heavy rain so that drains were inadequate to carry the flow and streets converted to rivers. Steep streets such as Parliament Street, Hardman Street and the streets running from Everton Hill were covered from side to side, furrowing the macadam. Flow accumulated in the lower levels of the town where sewers were broken and tenements flooded. Along the line of the Old Pool from the Custom House to Paradise Street and northwards to Byrom Street scarcely a house escaped. Shops in Basnett Street and Hanover Street were flooded. Cellars of various newspaper offices were flooded. The spire of St Barnabas church in Parliament Street was struck and part fell through the roof into the church. The Police Station at Brunswick Dock was flooded through water coming up from the sewer (although it stands 3 feet above street level). Sand and gravel covered the dock railway. Quays to each side of Queen’s and Coburg Docks were flooded to a depth of 2 feet with great loss to stored goods. Various public house cellars were flooded. Along Waterloo road New Quay and adjoining thoroughfares the water was 2 feet deep.Birkenhead: Low lying streets were flooded. The streets in Tranmere Park and those on the western side of Happy Valley poured torrents into Happy Valley Road which was flooded in several places with damage to parapets etc. A house was struck and seriously damaged by lightning. At Woodside Ferry the water running down the inclines of Hamilton Street, Chester Street and Church Street converged towards the ferry station and flooded offices. A large wall in Argyll street between Theatre Royal and Stewart’s barbers was washed away and the water poured though the gap. Much damage was done to hay and other crops in the Wirral.Ormskirk: The storm lasted for 5 hours with hailstones as large as marbles during part of the storm. Property was flooded at Lathom and a number of houses were flooded at Bursclough with furniture washed about. Flooding occurred from the overflow of the River Tawd and the River Alt. In Skelmersdale some roads were flooded to a depth of several feet.Burnley: A mill was struck by lightning and several houses in the lower part of the town were flooded.Preston: The town experience a severe thunderstorm for about four hours. The main effects were from lightning with several animals killed and several houses struck.Blackpool: Two men were killed by lightning.Blackburn: Many low-lying streets had the appearance of rivers. Duke Street Mill and a weaving shed at Little Peel were flooded and work had to stop. Walkden’s paper mill, Brookhouse was flooded to a depth of 6 inches, as was Livesey’s mill in King Street as were all the houses in the neighbourhood. The cellars of the Duke of York Inn were full of water. Similar conditions were experienced at Sharples,at Nova Scotia and in Addison Street and Penny Street. Also affected were Ribchester, Whalley, Rishton, Balderstone and Withnell with the storm lasting about an hour and a half.BR 1872 notes a waterspout burst upon the mountains above GarstangBR in 1919 notes: Mr. W. Shaw, of Caton, to whom we are indebted for some particulars, adds an interesting note relative to a remarkable storm on 26th July, 1872, which has hitherto apparently escaped notice in British Rainfall. On that occasion the reputed rainfall measured in Escowbeck Gardens, Caton, is given as 2 ¼ in. in little more than half an hour. The rain gauge in use was unfortunately of the now obsolete pattern of float gauge fitted with a fixed measuring rod projecting from the funnel. The exposed portion of the rod undoubtedly acts as a collecting surface, and the precision of the reading was thus vitiated, so that we cannot accept the record as authentic, but even allowing for the error introduced by this means, the phenomenon is of sufficient importance to be put on record. On the occasion in question all the bridges over the Artle Beck and Bull Beck were washed away, and a child carried from the road into the torrent was drowned. [Storms were also reported at London, Derby, Leicester, Hampshire, Kidderminster, Crewe, Dudley (a man killed by lightning), Wolverhampton and Leamington] |
| **6-8 Aug 1872****Manchester times 10 Aug****BR** | Thunderstorms reported in Manchester, Burnley, Accrington, Bolton, WernethBroughton in furness 0.51 in 20 m | Accrington: A few dwellings were flooded and the rain ploughed furrows in roadways. A barn struck by lightning was destroyed.Elsewhere in Lancashire the effects were mainly from lightning.Werneth: A cloudburst filled the valleys on each side of The Lows, a range of hills running to Mottram. In Lycham Lane the houses on each side were filled. Large stones were carried about in all directions and much damage was done in Werneth and Gee Cross towards Hyde Lane, Hyde. Hail covered the top of the Lows to a depth of 6 inches. Houses were flooded at Compstall; the market place was flooded and the schoolroom underneath the Athanaeum was filled with water to a yard deep. |
| **4 Sep 1872****Manchester times 7 Sep** | Thunderstorms | Manchester and Salford: The cellars of many warehouses and dwellings were flooded including warehouses in Market Street. The lower storey of Salford Town Hall was flooded. A house was struck and damaged by lightning.Bury: The lightning was exceptional for just over one hour but no flooding was reported.Bolton: the thunderstorm lasted two hours. A man was killed by lightning. Several houses in different parts of Bolton were flooded mainly due to defective drainage.Bury: Two separate thunderstorms passed over the town. Houses and a mill were struck by lightning and damaged. A few streets were flooded and in two houses it burst open the doors and entered to a depth of 2 feet. A man was drowned trying to reach home through flooded water. |
| **28 Sep 1872****Yorkshire Post 30 Sep** | Widespread heavy rain (not a thunderstorm) | Northwest Lancashire: All the low lands have been flooded and great damage done to crops. The Ribble overflowed its banks. The Miller park at Preston was flooded and adjacent houses were affected. The Lostock overflowed its banks at Croston and land was inundated at Rufford and Penwortham. Damage was also done by the wind. |
| **2 Oct 1872****Westmorland Gazette 5 Oct** | Not a thunderstorm | Various rivers in the North including the north Riding and The River Kent when it was said that residents couldn’t remember when the river had been so swollen. However, no property or roads were reported flooded. |
| **3 Jun 1873****Westmoreland Gazette 7 Jun** |  | [ reference to storm in Manchester where streets were flooded to several feet] |
| **30 Jun 1873****Burnley Advertiser 5 Jul** |  | Bacup: The River Irwell rose to a considerable height in a short time indicating heavier rainfall at Dirplay than at Bacup. At Dirplay and Weir the rainfall was equal to that in 9 July 1870. At Weir Terrace several houses were flooded and the water made holes half a yard deep in the turnpike road |
| **17 Jul 1873****Burnley Advertiser 19 Jul** |  | Whalley: there was a severe flood from a mountain called Whalley Nabs which brought down large quantities of earth and stones. A very large ash tree next to Whalley Abbey was struck and destroyed. |
| **22 Jul 1873****Westmorland Gazette 26 Jul & 9 Aug****Lancaster Gazette 26 Jul****Burnley Advertiser 26 Jul****BR** | Thunderstorm raged for several hours.Excessive heat with 89F in the shade reported. |  A dozen people were reported at various places to have died of sunstroke.Blackburn: A man severely injured by lightningLiverpool: Cellars and streets were flooded in the lower parts of the town. Several buildings were damaged by lightning.Chorley: Streets were flooded. Several houses were struck by lightning. A cow was killed.Preston: the storm came from the northwest and was accompanied by a violent windBolton: Two boys were killed by lightning whilst kite flying – before the rain had commenced. Rain was accompanied by hailstones of enormous size. The streets in the lowlying part of the town were flooded and the River Croal rose 3 feet in half an hour.River Croal at Bolton at St Edmund Street B6205 SD713093River Croal at Farnworth Weir Gauging station SD743068Thunderstorms were reported in various other towns around Lancashire but little if any flooding.BR notes: Slight thunderstorm in central England; but in the north and west, especially between Preston and Lancaster, a series of the most terrific storms experienced for many years. |
| **26 Aug 1873****Westmorland Gazette 30 Aug****Preston Chronicle 30 Aug** | Thunderstorm  |  Preston: Rain fell heavily for two hours accompanied by very large hailstones. Various houses and mill chimneys were struck by lightning and damaged. There was no reference to flooding.Lancaster: Several houses in Stonewell were flooded to a considerable extent following half an hour of heavy rain. Buildings were struck by lightning.Bury: Some of the lower parts of the town were floodedManchester: A storm was also reported but without serious effects. |
| **24 Jul 1874****Manchester Times 25 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Blackburn: Great damage was done to property on the east side of the town and also in lower places where many of the houses were flooded. |
| **2 Sep 1874 Manchester courier 3 sep** | Thunderstorm | Heavy rainfall was reported in Manchester, Bolton and Rochdale. A house was struck by lightning in Bolton. In Rochdale several streets were like shallow rivers but no flooding of property was reported there or elsewhere. |
| **6 Oct 1874****British Rainfall****Met.l Magazine, vol. ix., p. 162** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6 Oct1874 | Inches |  | Inches |
|  Dartmoor  | 3.00 | Highgate  | 3.38 |
| Highfield, Hawkshead  | 3.05 | Underfell | 3.52 |
| Cartmel  | 3.05 | Hawesmead  | 3.51 |
| Coniston Parsonage  | 3.85 | Stavely Hall. | 3.80 |
| Low Wray | 3.17 | Matson.s Grounds  | 3.24 |
| Seathwaite  | 5.14 | Windermere, The Wood  | 3.52 |
| Barrow House  | 3.30 | Brathay Vicarage | 3.82 |
| Deer Close, Keswick  | 3.03 | Little Langdale  | 4.34 |
| Brow Top  | 3.10 | Eltenwater | 4.70 |
| Shu le crow  | 3.28 | Lesketh Howe  | 3.75 |
| Waterend  | 3.05 | High Close  | 3.30 |
| Kendal, Kent Terrace  | 3.22 |  |  |

 | Widespread heavy rainfall on west of England and Wales with totals generally > 3” in the Lake District. |
| **1 Jul 1875****BR** | Broughton in Furness 0.80 in 20 m |  |
| **20 Jul 1875****Preston Chronicle 24 Jul** |  | Preston: The main description was of flooded fields and damage to crops. The Ribble was very high but no houses were reported flooded.Settle: The Ribble rose to an unusual height and overflowed its banks for 30 miles covering growing grain and mowing grass. The Hodder and Calder were also high causing great devastation.Blackburn: The River Blakewater was higher than for many years and in low-lying parts houses were much flooded.Accrington: The River Hyndburn overflowed and flooded mills in Accrington and Church. Several houses in church were flooded with furniture floating.Manchester and Salford: Cellars in the vicinity of the River Irwell were flooded to an average of 18 inches. |
| **7-9 Aug 1875****Manchester Times 14 Aug****Lancaster Gaz 14 Aug** | Thunderstorms | Manchester: Severe thunderstorm for half an hour. A house was struck and set alight. The Irwell rose rapidly but not sufficient to cause damage.St Helens: Many cellars were completely deluged. Two houses were struck by lightning but no one injured.Manchester: A house was set on fire by lightning but there was no reference to flooding.Blackburn: In the low lying parts the mills and houses were flooded. The Hodder, Calder and Ribble overflowed. |
| **12 Aug 1875****Manchester Times 14 Aug** | ThunderstormRochdale 2.25 in 3 h | Manchester: the storm lasted 2 hours. The Medlock and Irwell were considerably swollen. Damage was done to houses by the lightning and limited flood damage was reported.Middleton: cellar dwelling in the lower parts of Middleton and Tonge were flooded several feet deep. The River Irk was swollen that fears were entertained for the safety of the bridges.Heywood: Low lying parts of the town were flooded. Damage was done by lightning to a school.Rochdale: Sewers were unable to carry off the water and houses were flooded to a considerable depth in the lower parts of the town notably in Drake Street where a sewer was under construction. A man was killed by lightning in Thornham. |
| **2 Sep 1875****Westmorland Gazette 4 Sep** |  | Very general high rainfall on the east of Pennines from S Wales to Argyll.2 Sep 1875No reference to thunderstorms  |
| **19 Sep 1875****Manchester Times 25 Sep****Blackburn Standard 25 Sep** | ThunderstormBroughton in Furness 0.75 in 10 m Frodsham 2.00 in 2 h 30 m | Liverpool: The church in Heswell was struck and the organist and page turner were killed (whilst he was playing the Magnificat). A farm was struck and set alight and two cows were killed.Blackpool: Lightning during the storm caused damage to buildings and killed a cow.Manchester: A storm was reported but without damage or flooding.Storms were reported by BS throughout Lancashire but without flood impact. |
| **21 Jun 1876****Liverpool Mercury 22 Jun** | ThunderstormPreceding temperature 85F in the shadeMacclesfield 1.10 in 55 m | Liverpool: Streets in every part of the town were flooded but no reports of flooding to property.Blackburn: A woman was killed by lightning and her husband badly injured. |
| **23 Sep 1876****Manchester courier 25 Sep** | Thunderstorm | Middleton: At Middleton Junction at an open space near Firwood Mills a child narrowly escaped drowning from a sudden rush of water. A house was struck and damaged and a tree splintered.Heywood: A number of new houses in Hopwood were struck and partly destroyed. A mill was struck and damaged. The low lying ground was flooded and the mill and gasworks were flooded extinguishing the fires.  |
| **14/15 Jul 1877****JBA Ribble report****Manchester courier 17 Jul** | The violent storms of the last few days culminated in a drenching downpour on 15th. More than 4 inches in 48 hours.Salford rainfall 14th 1.88”15th 2.30”No reference to thunder except at Chorley, Preston and Liverpool.Rochdale Drake St 0.83 in 20 m | Heavy and persistent rainfall in the Calder and Darwen valleys with generally 2.5 to 3 inches in the area from Darwen to Preston. At Preston water encroached many feet on the slopes of Avenham but no significant damage done there and none was located within the Ribble catchment. However there were reports of flooding on the Irwell and Medlock, the Croal at Bolton, the Douglas at Wigan, the Irk and Mersey.Lower Broughton: With the observed rising of the Irwell inhabitants of Lower Broughton took action to protect their possessions. This was justified as the river first overflowed at the suspension bridge whilst it had already backed up through the drains and flooded many houses. Cellars in Lower Broughton road were full to the ceiling. The water flowed down Clarence street towards Great Clowes Street and along Sussex Street and Cumberland Street. All these streets were impassable for several hours. The open space between Earl Street and Lower Brughton road was covere to a depth of over one foot and Grosvenor Square resembled a lake. The Bridge Inn opposite the suspension bridge had its lower rooms flooded to 2 feet as well as its cellars and the same circumstances prevail at scores of other locations. It is said to be the worst since ‘the great flood’ (Date?) The water swept over the footbridge at the bottom of Springfield Lane. All the works along the bank are flooded with the water rushing through the windows. The Springfield land bridge was damaged by a large floating tank. Some 30 sheep were drowned. The Medlock was swollen to a considerable extent. An engineer noted that if a sewer scheme under construction had been completed the flooding would not have occurred in Lower Broughton.Bolton: It was one of the most severe floods ever remembered. The River Croal flooded many mills, dwellings and fields. The railway near Lady Bridge was submerged. At Eagley a cotton mill was flooded to 3 feet. Mills were also flooded at Longworth and Belmont. A man was drowned in crossing a wooden bridge which gave way.Blackburn: Three men were drowned at Witton Blackburn in the swollen River Darwen.Barton: the River Irwell rose to its highest level since 1872Chorley: Some thunder was reported during the persistent rain. The railway at Horwich Junction was flooded to two feet. The cellars of Lancaster’s brewery were flooded to a depth of 3 feet.Leigh: A score of houses were flooded at Pennington, Westleigh and Bury Lane.Liverpool: thunder was also reported but little damage was done by flooding.Middleton: The water flooded several houses in Irk Street from the overflow of the River Irk. Several mills had to stop work and a footbridge at Little Green was washed away.Preston: Two thunderstorms passed over the town from the southwest on 15th. In the Fylde the River Wyre overflowed and caused much flooding of crops especially potatoes in Sowerby, Nuteby, Inskip and around Garstang.Northwich: due to the overflow of the Weaver which rose 6 or 7 feet above its normal level. It rose to a depth of 18 inches in the High Street. About 20 shops were affected as well as the Crown and Anchor Hotel.Southport: The Lancashire and Yorkshire railway has suffered severely with rails and sleepers washed away at Newburgh. Cattle pigs and fowl have been carried away.Wigan: the River Douglas overflowed and submerged an immense track of country. Seven mills were flooded and 7000 hands are temporarily idle. Many mills and houses are flooded and cattle horses and timber have been washed away.Carrington: A man was drowned when he slipped into the River Mersey when the bank gave way. |
| **22 Aug 1877****Manchester Courier 25 Aug** | ThunderstormsRochdale Drake St 0.50 in 30 m | Middleton: The river Irk overflowed its banks in many places. A seven year old boy fell into the river at Old Road Middleton and was drowned.Rochdale: A mill chimney was struck by lightning and the top 20 yards fell off into the works in Drake Street.Thunderstorms were reported at Blackburn, Preston, Wigan and Ormskirk with some effect of lightning but no reports of flooding.Preston: the River Ribble rose at a rate of 18 inches per hour from 6 until 9pm and the promenades and parks were flooded. At seven places between Leyland and Preston the road was impassable. Much land is flooded especially affecting the potato crop. Liverpool: The storm caused the sewers to be flooded and pools gathered in the streets and sand accumulated in some places to a depth of several inches.Ormskirk: Two houses were struck and damaged by lightning. |
| **14 Sep 1877****Leeds mercury 17 sep** | Preston 1.23 inches rainNo reference to thunder. | Preston: the River Ribble was said to be at its highest since the great flood of 1868. The water reached the foot of Frenchwood. Walks at Miller and Avenham Parks were submerged. Cellars in Ribble Place and Broadgate were flooded. In Cottam the roads are 5 or 6 feet under water. A man was drowned in the Ribble at clitheroe. |
| **18 May 1878****Lancaster Gaz 25 May****BR** | ThunderstormsOver Darwen 0.68 in 15 m | Chorley: the principal streets and low lying parts of the town were flooded to a depth of one to 2 feet and many tradesmen’s cellars were flooded to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.Accrington: Many parts of the town suffered flooding and shopkeepers suffered damage. Houses in Church Street were flooded knee deep. There was some damage to buildings from lightning.Liverpool: Two horses, in different places, were struck and killed. The streets of Bootle were completely flooded.  |
| **8 Jun 1878****Lancaster Gaz 15 Jun** | A raingauge on the Greaves registered 1 ½ inches in 24 hours. | Lancaster: The water flowed in streams through the streets several inches deep. Houses were flooded in Lower church Street, Stonewell and Rosemary Lane. Even in the higher parts of the town water got into the cellars in some cases to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.Morecambe: A house was struck and damaged by the only lightning strike on the town.Liverpool: A waterspout was seen travelling from the Mersey to the northeast of the town. No other effects ere noted. |
| **17 Jun 1878****BR** | Broughton Hall 1.08 in 1 h |  |
| **24 Jul 1878****Manchester courier 27 Jul** | ThunderstormAllerton Liverpool 0.53 in 1 h | Liverpool: The thunderstorm lasted nearly an hour but the rain continued for some time afterwards. In several low lying districts the cellars were flooded and caused considerable damage to commercial goods stored there, notably in Byrom Street, Scotland Place and Lord Street, including the Morning Star Hotel. Cellars were also flooded in Waterloo Road and Bath Street, Athol street and Regent Road and Vauxhall Road and Whitechapel. Sewer manhole covers at Queen’s Dock Gate were forced up. |
| **6/7 Aug 1878****Lancaster Gaz 10 Aug****Greater Manchester SFRA Appendix B**  | ThunderstormsBlackburn witton 1.39 in 45 m | Warrington: A man was killed when struck by lightning at Stockton Heath. A horse was also killed. The storm caused considerable damage by the flooding of streets.Blackpool: The storm lasted about an hour and caused flooding of shops and cellars. A boundary wall at Bailey’s Hotel, 90 feet in length and 8 feet high, was thrown down by the force of the water. One man was reported killed by lightning. The Palatine hotel was flooded as was the neighbouring bazaar.Prescot: Streets were soon flooded and houses in Warrington Road were flooded to several inches. ‘It is many years since the town has experienced so heavy a storm’.Blackburn: Rainfall lasted for several hours following a thunderstorm. The Calder, Hodder and Ribble were all flooded and crops on the bank damaged or destroyed. The Blakewater was flooded and many mills stopped.Burnley: A young boy was killed by lightning.Bolton: The Canal was breached at Nob End flooding Little Lever. |
| **19 Aug 1878****Manchester courier 26 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Eccles: Heavy rain quickly flooded the cellars and street of the district. Houses were struck by lightning and damaged.Stockport: Streets were flooded through the choking of sewers and homes in low lying districts were flooded by the rush of water. |
| **18 Sep 1878****Westmorland Gazette 21 Sep****Burnley Express 21 Sep** | No thunder noted. | [The strong wind was widespread and caused damage at Morecambe, Blackpool and Hull]Burnley: A severe storm with high winds caused the rivers to rise and many houses were flooded and one shop destroyed.Blackpool and Liverpool: Damage was caused to coastal properties by the high wind. |
| **8 Sep 1878****BR** | Buglawton 0.63 in 1 h |  |
| **8 Jun 1879****Westmorland Gazette 14 Jun** | Thunderstorms |  [Thunderstorms also reported at Lancaster, Carlisle, Bradford, N Staffs, Monmouth and N Scotland]Chorley: Two cows and sheep were killed by lightning, a building was struck and people inside were injured.Garstang: A thunderstorm occurred but no flooding was reported.Lancaster: Slight damage to a building was reported due to lightning. |
| **12 Jun 1879****Burnley gazette 14 Jun****Preston chronicle 14 Jun** | Thunderstorms | Liverpool: Buildings were damaged by lightning.Skelmersdale: A row of houses was struck by lightning and all were more or less damaged; chimneys were demolished, windows broken and roofs partially carried away.Lancaster: Some flooding occurred in low lying parts of the town but no flooding of property was reported. |
| **16 Aug 1879****Blackburn Standard 23 Aug** | Thunderstorm ?Prolonged rainfall | Oldham: Several cottages and mills are flooded. On the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway waters accumulated on the line to a depth of several feet extinguishing the engine fires. |
| **7 Sep 1879****BR** | Torver Rectory 0.27 in 10 m |  |
| **13 Jul 1880****Burnley Gaz 17 Jul****Liverpool Mercury 14 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Large quantities of water collected in the streets due to the inadequacy of the drains. In Albert Place and a building was knocked into the river by a lightning strike and three people killed by the rubble and several other injured.Lower Broughton: A waterspout in Lowcock street carried a pool of water to a considerable height and several houses were seriously damaged. Roofs were carried off by the wind. Many cellars were flooded here as well as in parts of Manchester and Salford in some cases to 4 feet deep causing much damage.Liverpool: rain was mixed with hail. One house was struck and damaged by lightning.Prescot: Severe storm lasted over one hour. The cellars in many houses were flooded. The pavement in several streets was completely washed up owing to the rush of the water.St Helen’s: Low lying streets were flooded and one street off Liverpool road had 4 feet of water around the houses. Cellras were flooded in every direction to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. The Windy Harbour Inn was struck and set alight.Blackburn: the streets in the south side of the town were flooded and flooding of houses ensued. A boy was seriously injured by lightning. The Blakewater, Ribble, Hodder and Calder were all flooded causing damage to crops.Oldham: Two mills were set on fire by lightning.Bury: several streets were flooded.Heywood: Several buildings were struck by lightning |
| **17 Jul 1880****Lancaster Gaz 21 Jul****Manchester courier 19 Jul** | Widespread thunderstorms | Lancaster: Some streets in the lower part of the town were flooded causing much discomfort to residents. Two horses were killed by lighting at Yealand.Oldham: Floods caused damage at Derker, Walshaw and Soho Mills, injuring the stock.Greenacre: Houses were flooded at Greenacre.Accrington: A woman dropped dead from fright during the storm.Eccles: the storm did a great deal of damage to property. Rain fell heavily and sewers were unable to take the water and streets were flooded knee deep. Cellars were flooded from the blocking up of the River Irwell (?). A congregational church at Patricroft was stuck and damaged.Liverpool: A man was killed by lightning in Park Road. The belfry of St Philemon’s church was knocked down and several houses struck.Bolton: Several animals were killed by lightning and several houses struck and damaged.[Six railway bridges were washed away in North Wales on the line between Bala and Dolgelly] |
| **23 Jul 1880****Burnley express 23 Jul** | Thunderstorms throughout Lancashire and Yorkshire | Accrington: Storm lasted one hour and a public house was set alight.Syston Junction of Leeds Manchester Railway: A viaduct was damaged by a rush of water in the brook below and a disaster narrowly averted. |
| **7 Aug 1880****Lancaster gaz 11 Aug** | Widespread heavy and incessant rain; no reference to thunder | Leigh: The road to Westleigh and Golborne became impassable and the Railway Inn and a number of houses were flooded. |
| **13 Nov 1880****BR****Westmorland Gazette****20 Nov** | Elterwater Woodlands 3.28”Seathwaite 4.75”High Close 3.15”No reference to thunderstorms. | The Lune and Ribble were much flooded |
| **30 Jun 1881****BR****Westmorland gazette 9 Jul****(Not sure whether the date should be 5 Jul)** | Elterwater Woodlands 2.65”Hawkshead 3.04”Wythburn 3.50”Stapleton 3.62”Ambleside 2.79”Ambleside Lesketh Howe 2.93”Thunderstorm for upwards of three hours. |  [Widespread thunderstorms were reported from London, Liverpool, Wales and Cornwall] |
| **5 Jul 1881****Liverpool Mercury 6 Jul****Manchester courier 7 Jul****Burnley Gazette 9 Jul** | Thunderstorms following oppressive heat with temperature up to 82.5F | Liverpool: Rain flooded the streets and flooded cellars in low lying districts to a depth of several feet. In Byrom Street, Whitechapel and paradise Street kitchens were also flooded.Manchester: Streets in the lower parts of the town were flooded and many cellars were inundated.Salford: The cellars of many houses were flooded from a few inches to three feet. Public buildings including the Town Hall were struck by lightning.Accrington: The streets were flooded from the flow from the steep hills which surround the town. Market Place and Church Street appeared like a large lake and all the adjacent shops were flooded. A large stream of water came down Plantation Mill Road and flooded the houses in several streets. In Cunliffe’s Mill water came to the top of the loomsPreston: it was said to be the worst thunderstorm in Preston for 16 years. Three weaving sheds are flooded. A boy was killed by lightning at Croston Station. A horse was also killed nearby.Bury: Rain flooded the streets, the market place and the island near Bury Bridge. A mill struck by lightning sank bodily into the river (at the time unoccupied). Three other mills were flooded from the overflow of the Irwell. A horse was washed away by the sudden rising of the water. A sewer at the corner of Crow Lane and Bridge Street burst with a sudden rush of water flooding houses. Cottages were flooded at Summerseat. At Tottington the bridge over the Brookhouse Mill Brook was swept away. The brook overflowed and flooded four cottages to the second storey. Blackburn: The railway line between Entwhistle and Over Darwen is seriously damaged, sweeping away a great portion of the embankment at Spring Vale. The earth was washed away a yard underneath the rails. The water in some houses in Spring Vale was a yard deep and inmates escaped by ladder through a window.Burnley: the storm continued for two hours. The greatest damage is from the river Brun which runs through the lower part of the town; houses mills and workshops along the bank for a mile have all been flooded some to a depth of 6 feet. Some years ago the bed of the river was paved and in the flood these stones were lifted up and created an embankment which has diverted the water into houses etc. The old brewery was flooded and barrels carried down river. All the houses just off Bridge Street and several in that street were flooded, many of them to the height of the doorway. The bridge was unable to take the water and all along the embankment the wall is swept away. A dead horse was seen floating. A litter of pigs was washed away. BG notes that the flood rose two feet higher than the great flood in 1866. In 1871 the Calder (rather than the Brun) was most affected; this time it was the Brun and the Calder was not extraordinary.Nelson and Padiham: Similar scenes to Burnley were seen. Several bridges were swept away. A cow and a calf were killed by lightning at Meuclough. The Brun flooded adjoining streets six feet deep.Haslingden: Lightning struck a row of houses at Baxenden, completely demolishing them. At Acre Mill water flooded the warehouse and also Cloughend Mill and Brittannia Mill. Victoria Mill was four feet under water.Heywood: The River Roach is flooded and Roach Mills have had to stop because of flooding.Darwen: The chimney at Two gates mill was struck and partly demolished.A great number of houses and shops in the lower part of town has been flooded. A landslide occurred on the railway at near Entwhistle at Sough Tunnel. The embankment near Carr How has been washed away and houses flooded.Bacup: The storm lasted eight hours. An immense amount of damage has been done to shops and houses from the flood waters. The streets are covered by rubbish washed down from the neighbouring hills. Three people are known to have drowned. The River Irwell overflowed and burst down boundary walls and many streets in the town were 2 to 3 yards deep. Two bridges were swept away. Many mills are flooded.Clitheroe: The storm raged from half past eight to midnight. Hundreds of houses were flooded to 2 to 3 feet. Stone walls were knocked down and huge trees were prostrated.Warrington: Hailstones of great size fell at the beginning of the storm. Sewers were choked and cellars were flooded. Leigh: Brooks overflowed and a mill was flooded. Houses were struck by lightning.Sabden: The water came down Pendle Hill in torrents and swept through the village of a depth above a yard. Two men attempting to cross the street were carried away and one was carried downstream a mile and a half and drowned. Cobden Mill was both struck by lightning and collapsed and flooded. The road through the village has been rendered impassable.Sabden Brook through Sabden joins the river Calder and is in the Ribble catchment] SD775372Higham: One shop and several houses were flooded.Barrowford, Barley and Roughlee: The flood carried away 8 bridges, did serious damage to at least 5 mills, took away numerous weirs and in more than one place lowered the bed by 9 feet (Roughlee). At Barrowford nearly all the cottages in the village were flooded. Walls of water likely on many more catchments but insufficient evidence to include] |
| **26 Jul 1881****Manchester Courier 30 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Bacup: A storm of wind hail and rain occurred in the Rossenden Valley. Torrents came down from the surrounding hills. Several hotels and dwellings were flooded and residents were alarmed that another severe flood was approaching but the rain stopped after about one hour.Manchester: A thunderstorm was also reported but without damage. |
| **31 Jul 1881****Manchester courier 2 Aug****Blackburn standard 6 Aug****BR (Buxton Advertiser 6 Aug)** | Heavy rain but thunder only heard after the downpour.Macclesfield Park Green 0.52 in 30 mCongleton Buglawton 1.01 in 45 m | Ashton: Heavy rain for one hour. The low lying streets were flooded. Gravel and earth were swept away and deposited on grids causing ponding. At the lower end of Coch Brook the water accumulated to 2 feet depth. The cellar of the Sycamore inn was flooded; the Horse and Jockey Inn was also flooded. The River Tame suddenly rose to an abnormal height and three pigs were seen being carried along.River Tame at Portwood gauging station SJ906918Preston: Streets were flooded and the gratings blocked up; low lying parts of the town were seriously inundated. Most of the paths in the parks are damaged with channels being scooped out to a depth of up to 18 inches. Both the Avenham and Miller are partially flooded caused both by surface water and the backing up from the river through the drains. The Ribble rose with alarming rapidity, aat least 7 feet in 3 hours. At the tram bridge below Avenham the water was within four feet of the roadway. Damage was done to the new Penwortham rail bridge under construction wher the coffer dam was overtopped and filled.Chapel en le Frith: Very severe rain at Goyt’s clough causing serious damage at the Ferniles Gunpowder factory. A footbridge was washed away and another near Taxal Church. ‘The water came with such a sudden rush that it rolled down the river course like on huge wave’. A bleach works at Whaley Bridge was also flooded.River Goyt at Taxal SK007799Middleton: Considerable damage was done in low lying parts of the town. A boy was washed into the brook at Slack’s Valley and drowned. Another had a narrow escape having been rescued 100 yards downstream.Clitheroe: the Ribble was said to be higher than in the previous thunderstorm. Much damage was done at Waddington where the brook running through the village was blocked with debris and its course was diverted and caused much flooding. The Sun Inn was flooded and great holes gouged in the road nearby. A number of houses behind the Buck Inn were flooded. At Bolton-by-Bowland the Skirden brook overflowed and flooded the temperance hotel and adjoining houses. <Buxton> (Derbyshire): At Buxton the fall was only just above 1 in. Much more must apparently have fallen near Goyts Moss, about three miles W. of Buxton. Buxton was visited by a heavy thunderstorm on Sunday afternoon, July 31st, about one o'clock. Rain fell in torrents, and the gutters being unable to carry away all the water, the footpaths and roads were swept by streams, which cut them up and damaged them to a great extent. It is said that £100 will not repair the damage to the roads and footpaths. A by-wash at the new reservoir in Lightwood burst, and the embankment was carried into the reservoir, doing damage to the extent of £100. So severe a storm has not been known in the neighbourhood for years. At the head of the old reservoir Mr. Sawyer Smith's wall was washed down, and also a great deal of rock and stone. Scores of tons of stone, earth, and trees were washed down from the collecting springs to the head of the old reservoir. A number of pipes was also displaced, and the connection between the springs and the pipes was severed. What with the damage to the reservoir and the roads also, it will probably cost the Local Board £200 to restore the same. In <Hogshaw>, the brook was considerably swollen, and the water found its way into some of the houses. Many of the lower parts of Buxton were also flooded, and the Gardens did not escape the ruthless influence of the water.<<Goyt valley>>: One of the most singular occurrences which has taken place since the memorable flood in 1872, was manifested on Sunday afternoon, and while it lasted created very great concern and fears for the safety of both persons and property. It appears that suddenly, or with very little warning, the high wind in the morning, freshened in the afternoon into a storm, and caused either a cloud or a waterspout to burst with great violence hear the Cat and Fiddle at the head of the Goyt Valley, which was quickly flooded to such an enormous extent that the roar of the rushing water could be heard some distance, as it advanced madly carrying trees and stones before it, and in its descent to <Whaley Bridge> it carried away three foot-bridges, besides sundry planks crossing the stream.Goyt at Whaley Bridge SK011812 In the valley in which the gunpowder manufactories of the Fernilee Gunpowder Mills Company are situate, the works were deluged, the valley being like an immense lake, the tramways to the various buildings were torn up and washed away, the roads destroyed, and much loose timber carried away. A cottage near, which had only been repaired lately, and inhabited, was half filled, and surrounded with water, the inhabitants managing to escape and obtain shelter elsewhere. Reaching the valley above the Botany Bleach Works of Messrs. Hall Brothers, at Harwich End, the banks of the Goyt became a vast lake; sand, stones, timber, and even a large foot-bridge being carried off and deposited high and dry on the shore after the water had receded. A large wall had its top portion lifted away some distance. At Messrs. Hall's works the water pipes were broken for a great length, and some of the supports of a wooden trough were bent and twisted almost from their places by the force of the flood. The noise of the stream at Whaley Bridge was very great, and the fury of the torrent which moved down in one vast volume was astonishing. It subsided very quickly, though till about six o'clock there was a great stream flowing. The banks below Whaley Bridge were torn down and much damaged. At the village of <Combs>, near <Chapel-en-le-Frith>, considerable damage was done to the hay crops as the water rolled down the hillsides like small rivers. The large reservoir which supplies the Peak Forest canal was very low at the time, and so was capable of receiving a large portion of the water. Had not this been the case the damage must have been most serious. The water came with such a sudden rush that it rolled down the river course like one huge wave. Black Brook at Chapel en le Frith at A624 bridge SK057816 |
| **24 Aug 1881****Manchester Courier 26 Aug** | Heavy continuous rain | Manchester: The River Irwell rose rapidly during the afternoon to 11 feet above its ordinary level and just short of flooding at Lower Broughton. A body was carried down by the river. |
| **29 Aug 1881****Manchester courier 31 Aug** | Thunderstorm after prolonged heavy rain | Sefton: flat land in the area was covered to a depth of several feet all the way to Ormskirk along the River Alt.Accrington: Considerable loss was sustained at Oswaldthistle where Brookside Mill was flooded.Darwen: the Sough Tunnel was again flooded and ballast washed from the line; the embankment was also washed away at Spring Vale station and trains between Darwen and Bolton had to be diverted. Damage was done to cottages in Carr Row.Blackpool: Streets were several inches deep in water which cut ruts in some roads.Blackburn: The Rivers Blakewater and Darwen were much swollen and a woman was drowned trying to cross a flooded bridge; she was clinging to a wall when the wall collapsed.Ormskirk: At Aughton several families were driven from their homes. Several animals were drowned at Altcar. Two people were killed [It doesn’t say whether drowned or hit by lightning].North Lancs: Hundreds of acres of farmland are under water including at Inskip, Sowerby and the whole of Myerscough Hall Farm. |
| **1 Jul 1882****Manchester Courier 8 Jul** | Thunderstorm following oppressive heat of variable duration within short distances | Manchester: A girl was killed by lightning.Patricroft: Liverpool Road was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Cellars of shops were flooded several feet. |
| **7/8 Jul 1882 Liverpool Mercury 10 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Manchester: Wheat Sheaf hotel in High Street was struck by lightning causing the three-storey building to collapse.[Heavy rain with large hail occurred in Staffordshire and Cheshire]Accrington: The sewers proved inadequate to take the water and cellars were flooded and also the highway between Accrington and Church. |
| **15 Jul 1882****BR** | Macclesfield 0.33 in 40 m |  |
| **25 Jun 1883****Westmorland Gazette Jun 30****Lancaster Gaz 27 Jun****BR** | ThunderstormWoodland Rectory 1.95 in 1 h 5 mHighfield Northwich 1.19 in 2 h | Storm also occurred at Kirkby Stephen and Appleby (See Eden chronology) and also at Cambridge, Warwickshire, Leicester and Clyde.Widnes: Rain fell mixed with hail and the streets were soon flooded and many shops and houses were soon inundated in some instances to a depth of four feet. Waste land at Anderson’s corner where St Pauls Church is being constructed was submerged. The police court and offices were nearly surrounded by water and in Witt Road and Moor Lane large lakes have formed. |
| **5 Jul 1883****Burnley express 7 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Burnley: At Laneshaw Bridge the storm lasted 2 hours. In a short time the river bed which had been almost dry was amass of seething waters, the flood coming down in a breast 18 inches high carrying before it parts of hedges, gates and trees in quick succession. Two men were injured by lightning and several animals killed.Laneshawbridge is on the River Laneshaw which joins the river Colne just below Laneshawbridge at SD923406 |
| **7 Jun 1884****Manchester courier 14 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Chorley: Rain was accompanied by hail. In a few minutes the streets were flooded, the sewers being inadequate. Streets were impassable and tradesmen in Market Street suffered damage to stock in their basements and ground floors.Warrington, Wigan: Storms were reported with houses damaged by lightning but no flooding reported. |
| **6 Jul 1884****Manchester Courier 12 Jul** |  | Liverpool: A child was struck and killed whilst in bed. Holy trinity church was struck and damaged. |
| **9 Jul 1884****Lancaster Gazette 12 Jul****BR** | Thunderstorm preceded by several weeks of high temperaturesLancaster nearly 3 inches on 8th and 9th. | Lancaster: Houses and shops in Stonewell and Church Street were flooded, the water backing up the latter for some distance. Cellars were also flooded in high lying districts such as Ullswater Road on 8 Jul. But the storm was far more severe the following day. Water bubbled up from sewers adding to the flood in Stonewell as high up as Lower church Street and Little John Street and as far along Rosemary Lane as St John’s Church, being 3 feet deep in the deepest part of the street. Houses and shops alongside were flooded equally. Two cottages in Rosemary Lane had water to a depth of 3 feet 8 inches. The houses in White Horse yard were flooded. In the Crooked Billet Yard in Lower Church Street, cellars of houses were flooded, an event never known in the past. In Chapel Street, Damside Street, North Road cellars were flooded in consequence of the water backing up. Even in Common Garden Street and Penny Street thought to be out of reach of flooding, cellars were also flooded. The top of Moor Lane bridge at the junction with St Peter’s Road was almost impassable for pedestrians, the grates being blocked by debris. In Ullswater Road the water reached completely across the Street from the Freeholders Arms to the Post Office and several inches deep in houses. At the Britannia Inn the casks floated off the gantry. The Workhouse Green and the upper part of Park Road are deeply furrowed. Some low lying cottages at the end of West Road were flooded to a depth of 2 feet. The Boy’s National School was flooded both on 8th and 9th. Four lambs were struck and killed by lightning.Oldham: At Royton nearby, two men were killed by lightning and 2 others injured.Preston: A mill was set alight by lightning but extinguished.Thunderstorms were also reported in Blackburn and Accrington but without damage reported.BR notes that at Lancaster, at the top of East-road, adjoining the workhouse grounds, a considerable portion of a wall was washed down by the pressure of water at the back ; and stones were hurled with great force a long distance down the road.Two men were killed and three injured by lightning at Royton near Oldham. |
| **13 Jul 1884****Lancaster Gazette 19 Jul****BR** | Thunderstorm. The early part of the storm was accompanied by hail and a hurricane wind.Broughton 1.75 in 1 h | Lancaster: Several parts of the town were again flooded notably in Stonewell, Lower church Street and Rosemary Lane affecting houses and businesses. Similar conditions applied in Cable Street, Ullswater Road and the Bowerham Estate. At the foot of Rydal Road the water spouted up through the pavement a couple of feet high. A horse and sheep were killed by lightning.Fleetwood: A barn was struck and its contents destroyed. |
| **10 Aug 1884****Westmorland Gazette 16 Aug****Liverpool Mercury 11 Aug.****Manchester courier 16 Aug****BR** | Widespread thunderstorms in England following record high temperatures – 94.2F at Greenwich (only Jul 1881 higher). Sunstroke fatalities  | Rossenden Valley: At Waterfoot a thunderstorm resulted in much loss of property, extending from the source of the River Irwell to Haslingden and Accrington Moors. The Irwell rose several feet in 20 minutes. For a quarter hour there was a fall of ice in fragments globular conical and square varying from 3 inches long to an inch in thickness. The damage has been caused to property over two miles. Rows of houses, churches and mills have had windows broken, many every square. Windows facing south are riddled as if shot. Hothouses, skylights of mills and fruitworks are all demolished. Roadways are washed up with furrows in some cases several feet deep. Mills and cellars were flooded. By far the most serious damage was in the Cowpe Valley from a small rivulet that rises in The Craggs. Numerous dye and printing works are in the valley and their connected ‘water lodges’ overflowed and flooded the works causing much damage. A stone bridge was swept away and the main road to Cowpe was washed up with 15 tons of pavement having been carried to the bottom of the road.Burnley: Severe storm with 2 killed by lightning and others injured. Hailstones fell thickly at Sabden. There was no reference to flooding.Darwen: a man was killed by lightningAshton-under-Lyne: Houses were struck by lightning and also flooded. An inch and a half rainfall fell in 45 minutes. Hailstones the size of beans were mingled with the rain. A warehouse was inundated and partly wrecked. Two chimney stacks were demolished.Manchester: A 9-year old boy was killed by lightning.Stockport: A man was killed by lightning.Bury: the streets were flooded and the theatre and a school were struck by lightning.Oldham: the streets were flooded and a mill was struck by lightning and suffered fire damage.BR reports HAILSTORM AND FLOOD IN N.W. DERBYSHIRE AND S.E. LANCASHIRE.At Charlesworth, and Chisworth, two villages between Glossop and Marple, R and H fell literally in torrents. After the storm had continued for about half-an-hour, water streamed down the hillsides in vast sheets, washing down walls, and ploughing up the roads to such an extent that locomotion was next to impossible. Stones of immense size were hurled from their places, and lodged in the ruts made by the water, and here and there, sand and rubble blocked the way. The road leading from Moorside Farm was in this way practically destroyed. At Simmondley the water flooded the houses to the depth of several feet. A party caught in the storm took shelter under a wall, but the water rose so quickly that they mounted the wall, but only to be removed as the force of the water washed away the foundation and brought down a portion of the wall.Much damage was done at Mr. Brown's bleach works at Armhill. It is estimated that it will take about £100 to cover the damages. At Chisworth damage estimated at about £500, was done by the water gaining access to Mr. James Eowbottom's mill, at Hole House. The Kinder Lee Mills also sustained injury. The gardens of Mr. Thomas Booth, which had been presenting a most charming appearance, were in one half hour changed to a complete ruin. Hundreds of valuable plants were swept away or buried. The sewers on theroads had speedily become choked by the flood, and all efforts were unavailing to release the rapidly accumulating water, or dam up the narrow entrance to the premises. Soon the water burst through the temporary barrier, and an impetuous torrent a yard deep, rushed down the gulley with a loud roar, sweeping all before it in its headlong course to the narrow gorge leading to the Etherow. At Chew the water rushed down the highway from the direction of Alma Pit, where it washed away a large quantity of coal, and completely tore up the road and a portion of the footpath. Mr. Kowbottom's property stands in a hollow near the roadside, consequently the whole weight of the water swept with terrific force against it. In front of the houses and near the mill a pond stands, and after the water had forced down a wall which adjoins the main- road fence, a considerable portion of it emptied itself into the reservoir, but for which, the consequences might have been serious.As it was, the road leading to the houses was torn up to a depth of two or three feet, and several cartloads of sand and stones were washed in front of the buildings, which were considerably flooded. All along the road from Alma Pit to the boundary of Chisworth, portions of the macadamized road were cut up, and near Boar’s clough about four feet of the wall on the roadside was washed down, a broad chasm some 10 or 12 feet deep cut in the field below, and alarge quantity of wreckage strewn about the field. Considerable damage was done throughout the district. " The river Irwell rose several feet in 20 minutes.River Irwell at Waterfoot at A681 bridge SD830218The storm raged with great fury over Newchurch, Waterfoot, and Cowpe, and for a quarter of an hour there was a rain of ice—not hailstones, incredible as it may appear, unless hailstones can be described as fragments of ice globular, conical, and square, varying from three inches long to an inch in thickness. These large pieces were not exceptional but general, and their destructive effects were to be seen in damage caused to property over an area of two miles. "Rows of houses, schools, churches, and mills, appeared as if they had suffered from a riot, wherein the rioters had wreaked their violence on the windows, many of which had every square broken. An idea of the extensive nature of the damage done to windows may be formed when it is stated that there were 186 squares of glass broken in the Catholic School at Newchurch. At St. Nicholas Church the windows facing the south were all riddled as if with shot, and only the stained glass windows protected with wire fencing remained intact. Nearly all the houses in this district had their windows broken, in one house there being no fewer than 76 panes. Greenhouses, and hothouses, also suffered severely, and gardens were broken up and despoiled. Furrows were ploughed in the roadways several feet deep, and mills and cellars were flooded. The damage sustained by shopkeepers and cottage property owners must amount to several hundred pounds. But by far the most serious damage was sustained in the Cowpe valley, which is about a mile and a half in extent. A small rivulet which empties itself into the Irwell has its rise in the Craggs— the name given to the extensive stone quarries worked by Mr. Thomas Brooks, High Sheriff of the County Palatine. Numerous dye works and carpet printing works are erected in the valley on the margin of the stream. The bank of the water-lodges connected with these works overflowed, and wrought terrible havoc, flooding the lower rooms and damaging a great amount of material. At one of these works alone, the damage is estimated at over £2,000. A stone bridge spanning the stream was swept away, and the main roadway leading to Cowpe washed up, about 15 tons of pavement having been carried to the bottom of the road. The damage cannot be estimated, but it must be many thousand pounds.BR reports The Daily News of August 26th but the date of the flood is not specified in the news but almost certainly 8 Aug “During a thunderstorm a few days ago a singular phenomenon which is more often observed at sea than on land, was witnessed at Simmondley, a village about one mile from Glossop. Behind the village rise precipitous hills, which gird part of the hamlet in something like the shape of a horse shoe, and in the centre of this runs a deep clough. When the storm was at its height the villagers were affrighted by a terrible thunder-clap which seemed to rend the heavens. In a moment or two an immense volume of water, carrying with it large-quantities of earth and stones, rushed down the clough and flooded some of the cottages five feet deep with water. The phenomenon was described by the natives as " the bursting of a cloud " (literally a waterspout), and its tremendous force may be gathered from the fact that where the water rushed to the earth it made a great indentation in the hill side, sufficiently large in width and length to enclose a house. The cavity was about 12 yards long and nearly 8 feet deep.Unnamed beck at Simmondley Lane,Simmondley SK020936 |
| **21 Sep 1884****Manchester Courier 21 Sep** |  | Widnes: The storm was of short duration but the streets were quickly flooded. Various buildings were struck by lightning and damaged and people injured.New Mills: Lightning seriously damaged St Mary’s Roman Catholic church. |
| **6 Aug 1885****Preston Chronicle 8 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Lancaster: The storm lasted half an hour. The streets were flooded and overflowed into some houses in Stonewell and White Horse Yard. Hailstones accompanied the rain.  |
| **4 Sep 1885****Manchester Courier 5 Sep** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: the storm lasted half an hour and the streets in the centre of the town were flooded.Eccles: Hailstones as large as marbles fell and buildings were struck by lightning.Oldham: Several low lying cellars were flooded. Rain was accompanied by hail. |
| **21 Jul 1886****Manchester Courier 22 Jul****Burnley Gaz 24 Jul** | ThunderstormLiverpool Walton on the Hill 1.03 in 15 m | Eccles: A man was killed by lightning.Southport: Sewers were surcharged and streets were soon flooded, notably Lord Street which was impassable for a quarter of a mile.Liverpool: Basements were flooded in the lower part of town. In Toxteth park a sewer burst whilst men were repairing it. One man was carried away and drowned and another died later in hospital.Heywood: Buildings were damaged by lightning.Colne: The lower part of the town was flooded. A farm was damaged by lightning. |
| **24/25 Jul 1886****BR****Manchester courier 26 Jul****Manchester Times 31 Jul** | Sale Brooklands 2.58 in 1 hMilnrow Piethorne 1.88 in 1 h 10 mManchester Stretford 1.54 in 1 h 15 m | Manchester: Rain fell for over one hour and the streets were flooded – but with the excellent drainage the water was swiftly carried away. A house in Higher Broughton was struck and damaged by lightning.Ashton under Lyne: A mill at the confluence of the Sheepwashes Brook and the River Medlock was damaged when the culvert underneath was blocked and the water accumulated in the gorge upstream from the mill eventually bursting through into the mill and causing serious damage. A mill three miles down the river Medlock at Daisy Nook a newly erected bridge was badly damaged.Oldham: A great deal of damage was done in the area particularly at Mumps where cellars and shops were flooded and the highway rendered impassable. A signal box on the railway was washed down and trains from Royton to Oldham could not run due to debris on the line. Cellars of mills were flooded causing damage to stock and machinery. Houses in the lower part of the town were flooded to a depth of 3 to 4 feet. In the Oldham area, a violent thunderstorm occurred. For about 2 hours every rivulet and stream was charged to its fullest capacity. In 70 minutes 1.88” fell at Piethorne and 2.19” at Denshaw. Daily rainfall at some stations exceeded 3.4” |
| **13 Aug 1886****BR****Leeds Mercury 14 Aug** | Manchester Stretford 1.00 in 45 m | Bolton, Belmont: Rain was accompanied by enormous hailstones. The roads converge to Astley Bridge where the water rose to the height of the lamp posts and people had to be rescued from their bedroom windows. In the fairground the hobbyhorses and swings were submerged. When the flood retreated some of the houses had 2 feet of mud. At Bromley Cross Station some wagons were thrown off the line, the water rushing with great force against the engine. |
| **28 Aug 1887****Lancs Evg post 29 Aug** | Thunderstorms following a severe drought; rain welcomed after mills stopped due to low rivers | Blackpool: Said to be the most severe thunderstorm there since 1877. Rain with hail as large as marbles fell. The streets were like rivers the sewers being unable to carry the flow. Cellars in the business part of the town were flooded. Three miles inland at Staining, the dust was not washed off the hedges.Blackburn: The storm was said to be the most severe since 5 Jul 1881. The storm lasted for half an hour but no serious damage was reported either from lightning or floods.Bolton: A woman was killed by lightning and several others injured. Cows and other animals were killed and several houses were struck and damaged. However, the reservoirs have been replenished. |
| **6 sep 1887****Liverpool Mercury 7 Sep****BR** | A whirlwind was reported in Manchester | Liverpool: thunderstorm but without any damage noted.Warrington: Some of the streets were flooded and at the junction of Mersey Street with Church Street and Irlam Street there was a considerable accumulation of water which came to the front of the bridewell. Cellars were flooded in Latchford.Southport: Lord Street, the principal thoroughfare was rendered almost impassable but no property was reported flooded. |
| **9 Jun 1888****BR** | Macclesfield 0.78 in 30 m |  |
| **13 Jun 1888****Liverpool Mercury 14 Jun** | Thunderstorms | Widnes: Hailstones as large as marbles fell and came with force against windows in some cases breaking them. The streets were flooded and sewers surcharged but there were no reports of flooding of houses.Warrington: Buildings were damaged by lightning and people injured but there were no reports of flooding.Runcorn: Large hail also occurred accompanying the rain. The sewer at Penketh Lane was insufficient to carry the flow and water rushed across bridge Street into Mersey Street. The Royal Hotel and Mersey Vaults were flooded. The Church of ST Michael and All Angels was struck by lightning and the roof crosses were shattered. |
| **5 Jul 1888****Lancs Evg Post 6 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Carnforth: Heavy rainfall for one hour. The Railway station subway was flooded to a depth of 3 to 4 feet.Wigan: Streets were converted to rivers and large numbers of houses were flooded. The theatre was struck and damaged |
| **16 Jul 1888****BR** | Warrington High Cliffe 1.50 in 2 hHeavy rain in Derbyshire with floods on Derwent. |  |
| **24 Aug 1888****BR** | Chelford Astle Pk 0.63 in 7 m |  |
| **7 Sep 1888****Liverpool Mercury 8 sep** | Thunderstorm | Warrington: Rain was accompanied by hail some as big as marbles breaking windows in various parts of the town. The lower parts of the town were flooded. |
| **7 May 1889****BR** | Congleton Buglawton Vic 0.43 in 25 m |  |
| **2 Jun 1889****Lancaster Gaz. 8 Jun****Manchester courier 8 Jun****Burnley Express 5 Jun****Blackburn Express 8 Jun****Lancaster gazette 8 Jun****BR****Webb et al 2009** | Widespread thunderstorms.Generally two thunderstorms one in the morning and another much more severe with hailstones and ice in the afternoon.Rochdale Fieldhead 0.31 in 11 mManchester Stretford 0.42 in 15 mBroughton in Furness 0.80 in 30 m | Much of northern England affected by prolonged thunderstorms said to be the worst for several years. No serious damage from lightning or floods was reported at Kendal or Windermere.Considerable damage was reported in the Lune Valley especially above Caton where works are in progress to convey water from Thirlmere to Manchester. Manchester: Hail and ice accompanied rain breaking many skylights. It was noted that at the Peel Park Museum on the parapets facing south the broad gutters had an agglomeration of drifted hailstones closely packed about 6 inches thick.Harpurhey and Blackley: The ground was covered with hailstones after 5 minutes. Afterwards when the sun came out the evaporation was so rapid that a cloud of steam arose. Glass was broken in plant houses and 35 crown glass panes. Some hailstones were round and somewhat flattened and measured 1 3/8 inches in diameter. The hailstones seemed to be of two kinds, either an agglomeration of small hailstones that had combined on descent or other perfectly round and composed of alternative layers of snow and ice. Three hailstones picked up at Blackley weighed quarter of a pound.Burnley: Scores of houses were flooded. Numerous birds were killed by the fall of solid pieces of ice. A cow near Padiham was killed by lightning.Bury: The Barnbrook speedily overflowed and the water made its way into many cellars and shops. The cellars of Barnbrook Mill were flooded to a depth of several feet causing damage to material. A sewer burst in the cemetery adjacent to the Brunswick chapel and flooded the ropeworks. The carcases of horses, pigs etc were seen floating down the River Irwell.Preston: the Savings Bank was struck by lightning but with little damage. The Ribble rose as much as one foot in 20 minutes.Liverpool: At Sefton Park an observer brought 68 hailstones into the house and found them to be 10 to the ounce. Although partly melted some time later, one stone had a 1 ½ inch long. Burnley: ‘No such storm has been witnessed during the present generation’. The hailstones were as large as marbles and a few buildings and streets were flooded.Padiham: Hailstones of unusual size fell and a large number of panes of glass in hothouses have been broken. A horse and a cow were killed by lightning and a large number of birds were found lying dead. Several low lying portions of the town have been flooded as well as some portions of Read including a warehouse.Clitheroe: Low lying portions of the town were flooded for a short space but the damage was not severe.Blackburn: Jagged pieces of ice half an inch square fell, causing bruises to those exposed. In many houses skylights and windows were cracked or broken. The only comparable storm was nine years ago. Lightning struck and damaged several houses. Several horses and cattle were killed by lightning.Great Harwood: the rain was accompanied by hailstones frequently measuring 3/4 inch in diameter and 2 ¼ inch in circumference. The windows of cotton mills suffered much damage. The inhabitants of Queen street were the worst sufferers with the cellars filled from floor to ceiling. Rooms near the Plough Inn had furniture floating about in their rooms. Water forced its way through manholes in Queen Street. Six flooded mills were named.Leaves of plants such as rhubarb and cabbage were riddled with holes.Accrington: Hailstones were twice the size of marbles and one weighed ¾ ounce. Great damage has been done mills by flooding. Four horses in a stable had water up to their necks before they were rescued. At Woodnook Colliery the water welled up several feet and the streets were covered several feet deep. At Lancaster’s ironworks 500 panes of glass were broken. Huncoat station was flooded. At Baxenden, several mills and houses were flooded and hundreds of windows were broken. Much ballast was washed from the rial line between Accrington and Haslingden.Whalley: The streets were flooded and a swift stream flowed through the village flooding the Dog Inn and many houses on that side of the road that had to be barricaded.Lancaster: Hailstones of unprecedented size occurred, as large as marbles. Water poured down the higher streets of town carrying vast amounts of gravel and sand and accumulated at the grids and choking them and causing large pools of water in low lying districts. In Ullswater road the cellars of some houses were flooded. In Bowerham Lane the water came down with such velocity as to dislodge curbstones and also one lamp.Much damage was done at Moor Lane Mill by the bursting of a sewer.Bleasdale: Hail fell for just a quarter of an hour but caused great damage to skylights. An observer measured 6 pieces of hail together weighing 4 ½ ounces.Garstang: Also very large hailstones fell and a typical one measured 5 inches in circumference. Owing to the absence of wind there was not much damage to windows but greenhouses suffered disastrously. Webb reports hail 57 mm in diameter in Garstang. |
| **9 Jun 1889****BR** | St Michael on Wyre 0.82 in 1 h 5 m |  |
| **20 Jul 1889****BR** | Rochdale Fieldhead 0.58 in 20 m | Several cows killed at Adlington (Macclesfield). |
| **11 Aug 1889****BR** | Hoylake 0.50 in 10 m |  |
| **8 Oct 1889****Lancaster Gazette 12 Oct** | Thunderstorm – though the main news was of a widespread extreme gale and persistent rain | Settle: Rain was accompanied by hailstones of phenomenal size. No flooding was reported there. |
| **28 Jun 1890****Liverpool Mercury 30 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Warrington: The storm lasted an hour and a half. The streets were flooded notably from the Police Station to Fennell Street which was flooded to 1 foot depth for 100 yards. |
| **14 Jul 1890****BR** | Broughton in furness 0.65 in 30 m |  |
| **30 Aug 1890****Lancaster Gazette 3 Sep** | Thunderstorm | Fylde: The storm lasted half an hour. Two horses and five cows were reported killed by lightning. There was no reference to flooding. |
| **17 Sep 1890****BR** | Birkdale 0.87 in 1 h |  |
| **30 Sep 1890****British Rainfall** | Grizedale 2.55”Seathwaite Vicarage 3.19”Monk Coniston Park 3.59” | Heavy rainfall North Lancashire and Lakes but papers have no reference to thunder or flooding.Ribble also overflowedCartmel, Broughton Hall R 2.10 in Skelwith bridge over the Brathay washed away |
| **27 May 1891****Preston Chronicle 30 May****BR** | Thunderstorm | Bamber bridge: South of Preston the storm lasted from 30 to 45 minutes initially with hail which covered the ground then with rain which flooded the weaving sheds at School Lane. he storm only extended from one end of the village to the other.A man was killed by lightning at Chorlton cum Hardy |
| **24 Jun 1891****Manchester courier 26 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Rochdale: Streets were flooded. A warehouse at Milnrow was struck by lightning and set alight but quickly extinguished.Liverpool: St Pauls Church was struck by lightning and the dome set on fire. Basements of shops and offices have been deluged. A man was killed by lightning.A house was struck at Nantwich; a cow was killed at Chorley; and a house struck and four pigeons killed at Crewe. In Lancashire in the evening two men were in a rowing boat on the Mersey; it was struck—one man was disabled and the other killed.—About 11 p.m. a house in Falkener Street, Liverpool, was struck and ignited, as was also the church of St. James in the same city. At night a warehouse in Milnrow, Oldham, was struck, the gas pipes were melted and the gas was lighted at the breach |
| **25 Jun 1891****Liverpool Mercury 26 Jun** | Renewed thunderstorm from the previous day | Liverpool: The spire at St Saviour’s School was struck and damaged and many other buildings were struck and damaged. Cellars in the lower parts of town were flooded including some in Byrom Street and also in Whitechapel, Paradise Street Strand Street and Dale Street and Houghton Street.Bootle: The police office on Strand Road was partially flooded.Birkenhead: The lower parts of the town were flooded but locations or property were not specified.Oldham: A large number of houses were flooded. The cellars of a few mills were covered to a depth of a few inches. Buildings were struck.Thunderstorms were reported widely through the county but most had little damage or no flooding reported. |
| **1 Jul 1891****BR** | Frodsham Dunsdale 1.50 in 2 h |  |
| **13/14 Aug 1891****BR** | Persistent rain no thunderBritish Rainfall reports that at no station was this the highest daily rainfall in a day with the largest recorded fall in the area of 2.42 inches. Floods were said to be due to the preceding wetness. | Heavy and persistent rainfall caused widespread flooding most especially in the Darwen valley. Several mills stopped work at Blackburn. The Darwen rose 10 feet and all the fields on its banks were flooded. The upper and lower ends of the town suffered most, although in dozens of houses at the foot of the Darwen moors the cellars were flooded. At the upper end of the town between Grimshaw Street and Pilkington Street, water burst from a culvert and the walls of several houses fell down. Many mills were stopped owing to being flooded.BR reports that the very heavy and continuous rains of the past week have done serious damage in East Lancashire, especially in the district extending from Blackburn to the Darwen Valley and away to Heapey. Low lands near Preston were covered with water, and the Ribble and its tributaries overflowed their banks. At Blackburn the Irwell overflowed, and several mills stopped work. At Bacup two streets were flooded 2 ft. deep, and a corn mill 4 ft. Forest Mill and other mills were temporarily stopped, boiler fires being put out. In the Darwen Valley there was enormous damage. During Thursday night (13th) very heavy rain fell in Darwen, and very great destruction of property occurred. The river Darwen rose 10 ft and all the fields on its banks were flooded. During the forenoon the water subsided to about 3 ft. or 4 ft. The upper and lower ends of the town suffered most, although in dozens of houses at the foot of the Darwen moors the cellars were flooded. At the upper end of the town between Grimshaw Street and Pilkington Street where the culvert takes a bend, the volume of water was so great as to burst the culvert near a row of houses in Pilkington Street, and at 9 o'clock the walls of some of the houses fell down with a crash, and were rapidly swept away by the stream. At the bottom of Longford Koad the water from the Moors came down with considerable force and brought down to Bolton Road loads of dirt and sand, which had to be carted away. The Darwen Company's mill is in the same district, and at 6 o'clock yesterday morning (14th), it was found impossible to work the pumps, in consequence of the quantity of dirt which had been swept into the reservoir. The workpeople to the number of 450 had to remain at home until dinner time, when another effort was made to start the pumps. The Spring Vale end of the Sough tunnel was flooded for over three hours yesterday morning, and traffic had to be conducted on a single line. The culvert at the side of the tunnel was too small for the water, and at 5.30 the up line to Manchester from Darwen was flooded. In the hilly district of Heapey the rainstorm raged with fury, and houses and mills suffered seriously. Yesterday morning (14th) at 3 o'clock it was found that the embankment about half-a-mile beyond Heapey station was giving way, and the engine drivers were warned. A couple of hours later the swollen brook, which runs beside the highway from Heapey to Chorley, overflowed its banks and forced its way under the railway bridge; this caused the wall to give way and part of the bridge and tons of earth were flung across the rails. The water then rushed across the line and a large volume flowed down the line, and undermined the foundations so seriously that traffic had to be stopped. The first to discover the mishap to the bridge was an engine driver, a couple of waggons being thrown off the track. It was some hours before the traffic could be resumed. A third slip occurred at the bridge, close to Heapey station, but this was not serious. Great damage was done to White Coppice Mills, about three-quarters of a mile from the railway station. The mills^ which belong to Mr. A. Eccles, are situate at the bottom of the bank of a large reservoir which feeds the boilers. The top of the bank is nearly level with the roof of the mill. About half a mile further back runs the sluice which carries the surplus water from the Eoddlesworth to the Eivington reservoirs of the Liverpool Corporation. This sluice also collects the water from the mountain rivulets along its course. One of these brooks comes down the centre of a particularly deep clough at the Chorley end of the sluice, and early yesterday morning several thousand tons of earth from the hill-side fell into the boiling stream and were carried into the sluice below, completely blocking it. The result was that the dammed up waters rushed over the sluice bank and into the White Coppice Reservoir. The bywash of the lodge proved insufficient to carry off the water,, which began to roll over the embankment a yard deep. The flood forced its way into the mills through the windows of the mechanic's shop and swept everything out by the front door. The main body of the stream was then deflected by a wall into the boiler house, which was quickly filled. Eventually the water burrowed its way under the foundations of the mill carrying with it tons of earth. Fortunately a man on duty in the mill went across the dam, and the occupants of the houses were aroused from their sleep and got out of danger, as were also a number of others who resided along the course of the stream. The water flooded the shed, and spoiled a lot of warp, and some cloth was carried into the road. The stock was fortunately low, but the damage must be great. Low down several bridges which crossed the brook have been carried away and the water which supplies the Dacca Twist Company was so dirty that work had to be stopped. Twice before within a month the valley has been flooded, but not to so serious an extent. On this occasion there can be little doubt that if the flood had continued much longer the embankment of the White Coppice Reservoir would have gone, and the loss of life might have been heavy. |
| **25 Aug 1891****Liverpool Mercury 27 Aug** | Persistent rain with strong winds – no thunder reported | Preston: River Ribble was in high flood and low lying fields on the banks are under water.The rain and strong winds were also reported at Lytham, Blackpool and Fleetwood.The Lune and Wenning were also in a state of flood the worst for 15 years. |
| **26 May 1892****Liverpool Mercury 27 May** | ThunderstormSouthport Birkdale 0.97 in 2 h | Southport: The lower half of Lord Street became a river with tributaries from Duke Street, Talbot Street Portland Street and parallel streets. A canoe was used in Talbot street. Cellars were flooded in Chapel St and Neville St. This was said to be the worst flooding for 2 years but were not so bad because of improvements in sewers. At Birkdale where no improvements had taken place there was flooding at Weld Road opposite the convent to several feet. Lulworth road became impassable and Aughton Road also flooded. |
| **3 Jul 1892****Manchester Courier 5 Jul****BR** | ThunderstormBolton The Park 1.00 in 9 m (1.14 in 33 m) | Wigan: Water poured into houses until it reached half a yard.Bolton: Several mills are stopped through the floods. Several houses have been struck by lightning and a child was seriously injured. At a stable 50 horses were up to their necks in water. The streams in the district rose one foot a minute.River Croal at Bolton at St Edmund Street B6205 SD713093River Croal at Farnworth Weir Gauging station SD743068Houses were also reported flooded in Ashton, Ince, Platt Bridge, and Hindley.This storm, yielding much rain in a short time, caused flooding in many places, and drains or sewers were burst in Manchester, Castleford, and Leeds. In Castleford it is stated that the local authorities removed nearly 100 cartloads of hail. |
| **23/24 Aug 1892****Manchester courier 27 Aug****Liverpool Mercury 25 Aug** | Thunderstorm following a period of oppressive heat. | Manchester. At Blackley a reservoir burst and sent a rush of water which tore away part of a joinery and entered cellars in Market Street. St Helens: The storm lasted half an hour and all low lying parts of the town were flooded. A building was struck and seriously damaged. |
| **1 Sep 1892****Liverpool Mercury 3 Sep, Chapman and Buchanan 1966** | No thunder reported in N Lancs but thunderstorms later in the south.Chelford Astle Pk 0.50 in 20 m | Preston and the Fylde: Rainstorm caused the swelling of the Ribble and caused damage to crops in the Fylde. The river Wyre overflowed at Scorton station and the road nearby was under 4 to 5 feet of water. The River <<Lune>> overflowed near Lancaster and the ballast at Hindburn bridge had been washed away. Chapman and Buchanan give a list of flood peaks at Caton Low Mill with a flow of 977 cumecs estimated being the 6th highest from 1892 to 1962. Southport: A storm with hailstones occurred in a thunderstorm with high winds; no flooding was reported.St Helens: Another thunderstorm again caused flooding in the lower part of town. |
| **18 May 1893****BR** | Gawthorpe Hall 0.93 in 1 h |  |
| **7 Jun 1893****Blackburn Standard 10 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Nelson: Heavy rain fell for 2 hours quickly flooding the lower parts of town. In the Walverden disctict weavers had to wade to get back to work after lunch and the Walverden Mill was flooded along with the adjacent Leeds Road. Cellars of houses were flooded in Carr and Scotland Roads and ran right through houses in George Street. Paving on Pendle Street was lifted and destroyed. The football and recreation field were under water and there was widespread flooding in the Newbridge area. A chemist’s shop was struck and destroyed in Burnley. |
| **3 Jul 1893****Lancs Evg Post** **4 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Hyde: Shops and other buildings were flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Buildings were struck by lightning. |
| **8 Jul 1893****Lancs Evg post 10 Jul** | ThunderstormSouthport max temp 83.5 F; daily rainfall 1.33 inches | Lytham: Sewers were blocked and steets almost impassable.Southport: Lord street sewer was surcharged and the basement of Scarisbrick hotel was flooded. Cellars in Stanley street were also flooded. |
| **11 Jul 1893****Manchester courier 12 Jul** | ThunderstormWhittle le Woods (10th) 1.35 in 1 h 25 m | Rochdale: A mill chimney was struck and demolished and the mill set alight. No flooding was reported.Hayfield: in the High Peak (Mersey catchment) several houses were flooded seriously.Chorley: Low lying houses in Water street were flooded and the furniture floated about.A furniture store was struck by lightning.Houses were struck and damaged by lightning at Accrington and Burnley. |
| **10 Aug 1893****Lancaster Gaz 12 Aug****Lancs Evg Post 11 Aug****BR** | ThunderstormLongridge 2.09” in 35 minutes; 2.4 inches in the dayPreston – some hailstones the size of walnuts.Preston Corporation Off: 1.25 in 5 m | Blackburn: Buildings were struck and seriously damaged. The rain did much damage in Shearbrow and Limbrick. In Shearbrow large quantities of stones and gravel were carried down to Preston new Road. The water was 18 inches deep near St Andrew’s street in Limbrick and a number of houses were flooded in King William Street and Market Place. At Mellor a cow was killed and Eslwick Mill was flooded to a considerable depth.Burnley: Rain fell for nearly 3 hours causing flooding to a large number of houses in various parts of the town. A mill was flooded in the Trafalgar district.Preston/Longridge: The railway line between Preston and Longridge was torn up by the stream of water. Sewers in various parts of the town were unable to carry the water which shot up from manholes several feet high. Walls were washed down and cellars were almost universally flooded. Lightning strikes caused some fires. Syke Street main sewer which runs through Winckley Square under Mount street burst forming a huge chasm and the bottom of Mount street was flooded. Many mills were flooded to a depth of 2 to 3 feet. Friargate sustained great damage and tradesmen suffered loss through water up to 3 feet deep in shops. Park paths have been damaged by streams of water which have furrowed them and gravel is spread over the grass. A cow was killed by lightning. Hailstones of large size smashed windows and several shops were flooded.Nelson: Sewers were inadequate and cellars were flooded. In Highborn Road the subway under the railway was flooded. The houses on the higher side of Bradshaw Street were flooded.Clitheroe: Most of the streets in the town were flooded and in the lower parts houses were flooded, to the extent in some that furniture was floating about.Fulwood: The floors of some houses were burst out by the rush of water from bursting sewers. Water rushed down sloping streets, ploughing up the roads and carrying silt and debris. House gutters were insufficient capacity and water streamed off in sheets.Garstang: Low lying lands were completely under water and the Wyre and Brock rose between 2 and 3 feet in half an hour. Five cows were killed by lightning.Walton le Dale: Several houses had their cellars and kitchens flooded. Flats Mill was flooded. |
| **2 Jul 1894****BR** | Rochdale Fieldhead 0.33 in 23 m |  |
| **25 Jul 1894****Blackburn Standard 28 Jul****BR** | ThunderstormBolton Hurst Bank Heaton 0.50 in 25 m | Burnley: An extensive works was destroyed by fire after being struck by lightning.Blackburn: three houses were struck. There were no reports of flooding.A factory at Burnley, one house at Blackburn, one at Bradford, and several houses in Sheffield were struck. Floods occurred at Bacup, Sowerby Bridge, and Todmorden |
| **1 Aug 1894****BR** | Whittle le Woods 1.43 in 3 h |  |
| **30 May 1895****Liverpool Mercury 31 May** | Thunderstorm | Liverpool: Heavy rain with hailstones. There were no reports of flooding.Southport: A house was struck and damaged by lightning.Manchester: A gang of men working on sewers in Scropton Street were suddenly hit by a surge of water from an old sewer carrying five or six men off their feet – but all were rescued. |
| **26 Jun 1895****BR** | Rochdale Fieldhead 1.61 in 55 mEccleston 1.48 in 2 h 15 m | Malpas, Edge Hill. The most severe TS experienced in 70 years commenced about 4 p.m., and it is estimated that more than 1,000 flashes of L occurred before 5 p.m., within a mile 15 oaks and 1 ash were struck. At Thorneycroft Hall 2.40 in fell in less than an hour. Eccleston 1.48 in. falling between 3.15 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.—Macclesfield, The Park (VIII). The most violent TS remembered. 2.37 in fell in three hours from 2.45 p.m. Bolton, The Park Severe TS from 3 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.—Rochdale, Deeplish Hill 1.87 in., of which 1.38 in. Fell between 5.20 p.m. and 6.20 p.m. during a TS ; probably all of the 1.87 in. fell in an hour-and-three-quarters.—Rochdale, Fieldhead TS, and 1.61 in 55 minutes.—Southport, Hesketh Park TS in evening. |
| **1 Jul 1895****Liverpool Mercury 2 Jul** | Two thunderstorms separated by a couple of hours of sunshine | Liverpool: Heavy rain flooded many of the leading thoroughfares and torrents rushed along steep places such as Leece Street, Bold Street, William Brown Street and London road. Sewers became choked leading to pools in low lying districts. Many cellars and warehouses were seriously flooded. Defective sewerage has caused problems on the outskirts at West Derby and Tuebrook where kitchens and gardens have been flooded.An incident occurred in Fox Street in the second storm with lightning striking a warehouse and setting it alight but no flooding was reported from this second storm. |
| **26 Jul 1895****BR** | Grange pit Farm 0.34 in 8 m (1.25 in 20 m)Cartmel Fell Vic 1.50 in 1 hMacclesfield 2.37” in 3 h | Re 25 Jul A heavy fall (in places) over a large area, including N. Lancashire, the S.E. of the Lake District, and parts of all three Ridings of Yorkshire(widespread daily totals over 2.50).<Macclesfield>: Many sewers burst and houses were flooded 3 feet deep. Two houses and a flagstaff were struck by lightning. |
| **9 Jul 1896****Liverpool Mercury 10 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Southport: Heavy rain for five hours with thunder at the beginning. Lord Street and parallel streets were flooded as were several parts of Birkdale notably Weld Road, Aughton Road and York Avenue. The railway became flooded at Ash Street Station covering the axles of carriages. |
| **19 Aug 1896****Manchester Courier 22 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Manchester/Oldham: The storm was accompanied by hail. The water rushed down Manchester Road like a river. A few houses and shops were flooded |
| **13 Sep 1896****Manchester Courier 19 Sep** | Thunderstorm | Pendlebury (NE of Manchester): A 9-year old boy was drowned when he was swept from a tunnel which he had gone under with some others to shelter from the rain. Initially the flow was very low but the water suddenly increased; the other boys ran out but he delayed and was carried away and drowned. Many low lying houses in Chorley and Bolton roads were flooded. Two houses were struck by lightning and inmates injured.Bolton, Leigh, Bury: Lightning struck houses but no flooding was reported. |
| **10 Oct 1896****Manchester Courier 12 Sep** | Thunderstorm – but cold and wet throughout the day and accompanied by a high wind | Manchester: rain was accompanied by hail. Drains were overcharged and water flowed down the streets.Liverpool: A local football team entering their field as a group were struck by lightning; one was killed and 5 others severely injured. No flooding reported. |
| **28 Jun 1897****Liverpool Mercury 30 Jun****BR** | ThunderstormGateacre the Nook 0.68 on 30 m | Liverpool: In the districts of West Derby and Tuebrook several houses had their cellars flooded. Near Edge Lane a great rush of water went over the railway line owing to the bursting of a sewer. At Old Swan the furniture in several houses was floating about. Premises in low lying districts of Liverpool including businesses and warehouses had their cellars flooded in many instances to several feet.Bootle: the streets were flooded and water found its way into many cellars of houses in low lying districts. The borough police station was flooded to 18 inches.Altrincham: The storm lasted 2 hours. Rain flooded low lying quarters of the town. Two houses were struck and damaged by lightning.Nelson: The heavy rain quickly flooded the higher portion of the town; the drains in Hibson Road were quite inadequate. In the subway to Little Marsden the water accumulated to 5 feet. |
| **5 Aug 1897****Liverpool Mercury 6 Aug****BR, Winsford and Middlewich Guardian 7 Aug, Heywood Advertiser 6 Aug** | Thunderstorm following a period of very warm weather. There were widespread reports of lightning damage and death of animals but few of floodingRochdale Fieldhead 0.56 in 30 m(1.54 in 45 m)Rochdale Deeplish Hill 1.60 in 40 mRochdale Park Obs 1.31 in 50 m (1.93 in 1 h 15 m)Rochdale, Park Observatory Two TSS. The first from noon to 1.15 p.m., with 1.93in; the second from 5.25 to 6.15 p.m., with 1.31 in., making a total of 3.24 in.Rochdale, Fieldhead In 45 minutes, from 0.15 p.m., 1.54” of R fell, and in 30 minutes, from 5.30 p.m., 0.56 in. Southport, Hesketh Park TS. A chimney stack and two trees were struck by L at Birkdale, and three cows were killed and a pony was injured on Birkdale Common | Liverpool: Rain was accompanied by hail. Drains were choked and many streets were flooded; business premises all over the city had their cellars flooded. A man was killed by lightning at the Docks.Clitheroe: The storm was of short duration but a farmer was killed in a field. Streets and gullies were filled.Bury, Blackburn: two men were killed by lightning.Burnley: A number of cellars were flooded.St Helen’s: Rain was accompanied by large hailstones and lumps of ice. Most of the streets of the town were flooded and damage was done by water getting into cellars of houses and shops. The most serious flooding was at the bottom of Bridge Street, the water being several feet deep and filling the surrounding shops and causing the upheaval of the pavement.Southport and Ormskirk: Lightning damage to Portland hotel and three cows killed.Wilmslow: Hailstones as large as marbles fell with great damage to greenhouses and fruit trees.Middlewich: the rain came down in torrents but in an incredibly short time the sewers were incapable to taking the vast volume of water which rushed along the streets. The wind was very violent and a large quantity of hailstones fell with the rain. Lower Street from the Bullring was converted into a rapid river. The water boiled up 2 or 3 feet high at each grid and the water was 3 to 4 inches deep across the whole street. A number of houses were flooded. At the bottom end of Lower Street the water was 3 or 4 feet deep for a distance of 30 yards and the houses there were flooded to a depth of 2 or 3 feet. Wharf Bank and Leadsmithy Street and a number of houses there were similarly inundated. Cellars of shops at the Bullring were flooded as were those at the White Lion. Roofs and ceilings also suffered as a consequence of the extreme violence of the storm. The storm only lasted half an hour.<Heywood>: John Street Mill was flooded to a depth of a few inches. |
| **8 Aug 1898****BR** | Stretford 0.95 in 30 m |  |
| **20 Jun 1899****Liverpool Mercury 21 Jun** | Thunderstorm following several weeks of warm dry weather | Formby: A labourer was killed by lightning.A storm was also reported at Liverpool with no damage reported and no flooding in Lancs. |
| **28 Jun 1899****Liverpool Mercury 29 Jun 1899****BR** | Thunderstorm following 2 days of oppressive heatAughton springs 0.95 in 1 h | Liverpool: Low lying streets were flooded. Part of Smithdown road was flooded to a depth of several feet. Many cellars of houses and businesses were flooded, notably in Byrom Street.Bootle: At Seaforth, Bridge Street was flooded to a depth of 2 feet and streets were like rivers. |
| **12 Jun 1900****Burnley Gaz 13 Jun****Blackburn standard 16 Jun****Manchester times 15 Jun****BR** | Thunderstorms on successive nights with preceding very hot weatherBR observers note thunderstorms at BoltonAstle Hall Chelford Cheshire had 0.55” in 7 m |  Burnley: cellars were flooded but damage limited. Several chimney stacks were demolished. Some lambs were killed.Ashton under Lyne: Several houses in the lower part of town were flooded with furniture floating about.Blackburn: Large hailstones came down in torrents and caused considerable damage to windows. Cellars were floodedEccles and Worsley: Lightning damage to buildings was reported.Manchester: A boy was drowned in the River Medlock. He was playing in the bed of the river near Palmerstone Street, Beswick with the stream in a comparatively shallow state when the water suddenly came down in a flood. Three boys managed to escape with no more than a wetting, a fourth clung to a river wall until he was rescued, the other was carried downstream where the river wall was 30 feet high and attempts to rescue him failed. River Medlock at Palmerston Bridge SJ859981Sandbach: The hailstones were like lumps of sugar and some were considerably larger. The sewers were quite unable to cope with the voume of water which well up through grids and manholes. Down Bradwell road the water collected to such depth that a horse was up to its belly. Two cottages on the same road were flooded one with a child left floating asleep on a sofa. Many cellars were filled to capacity.<Holmes chapel>: Hailstones were solid pieces of ice, of all conceivable shapes many picked up 1½ to 2 inches long and weighing 2 or 3 oz. Fields of potatoes are severely damaged. Chickens and ducks were killed by falling hailstones.  |
| **16 Jul 1900****BR** | Liverpool Huyton 0.30” in 10 minutes: .51” in 30 mins |  |
| **3 Aug 1900****Burnley Express 8 Aug****Manchester courier 11 Aug****BR** | Heavy daily rainfalls were reported at Liverpool (2.75” and 2.91”) | Earby (N of Nelson): The storm did considerable damage to property and stock. The rain overflowed the back which runs through the town. Water St was properly named, the water being 2 feet deep. From the top end of the village to Albion Hall and grove Shed, the streets were impassable. Behind Victoria Inst and in Ireland Square the water was 3 feet deep in houses. Some of the shops in the main street were flooded a yard high. Nothing like this has occurred in Earby since 1866.Woodhead (Upper Etherow/Goyt): A cloudburst was followed by a great rush of water down the hillside. Trees and undergrowth were carried along and large boulders some 6 feet long were carried in the direction of the rail line. In places it was piled in drifts 10 feet high on the line with the heaviest obstruction a mile on the Manchester side of the Crowden Station and a second not so serious a quarter of a mile from the station. A building near the station was covered with mud and partly demolished and the inhabitants escaped with difficulty.Rochdale: two men were killed by lightningTyldesley: A man was killed by lightning. |
| **6 Aug 1900****Manchester Courier 8 Aug****Lancs Evg Post 6 Aug** | ThunderstormManchester Rainfall 1.37” | Bury: Hamilton Street was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. A wall 100 feet long was carried away at Chesham. Lancaster: Water rushed down the streets from the higher parts of the town causing floods at lower levels. Sewers were surcharged and water from the sewer grates added to the flood. Stonewell and Lower Church Street had a sheet of water 1 foot deep. Several shopkeepers whose shops are below the level of the street were flooded. On receding, the road was covered with debris and sewage five inches deep. |
| **21 Jul 1901****Lancs Evg Post 22 Jul****BR** | Thunderstorm with accompanying very high temperatures - 90F recorded following a drought of 20 daysStorms widely reported in Lancs but no significant flooding.Manchester Stretford 1.00 in 30 mins | Morecambe: A number of houses in low lying parts of the town were flooded.Langho (N of Blackburn): A house was struck by lightning.Accrington: two houses damaged by lightning.Barrowford (N of Burnley): A man was killed by lightning. |
| **25 Jul 1901****Manchester Courier 26 Jul** | No thunder reported – persistent rainfall | Manchester: The road at Fallowfield Station was flooded from water flowing from a sewer combined with the overflow of a brook in the Burnage area; a considerable length of line was flooded. Water was as high as the platform at Alexandra Park. Rail services were disrupted. |
| **11/12 Nov 1901** **BR** | Not a thunderstorm | Widespread heavy rainfall from a deep depression moving across Ireland and northern England extending over 2 days. Rainfall on 11 th exceeded 1 inch over the whole of Ireland except the extreme NW and SW, and parts of Lancs and W Riding of Yorkshire. On 12th the heavy rain continued in NW England and extended to Northumberland as well as southern Scotland and south to Derbyshire. Burnley: The town suffered immense damage. Several rows of houses in the town were under water. |
| **17 May 1902****BR** | Ormskirk 1.18” in 1 hour |  |
| **5 May 1903****BR** | Rochdale 0.40” in 15 m |  |
| **25 Jun 1903****Burnley express 27 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Burnley: A half hour storm caused flooding of streets. A spinning mill was struck by lightning and set alight. Other buildings were struck. |
| **17 Jul 1903****Manchester Courier 18 Jul** | Thunderstorm | St Helens: At St Thomas Cemetery the bell tower was struck and the bell fell to the ground. Cellars were flooded in several public houses in Liverpool road.Warrington: Low lying streets were flooded. People were injured by lightning strike. |
| **14 Aug 1903****BR** | Rochdale 0.46” in 24 m |  |
| **8 Sep 1903****Burnley Express 12 Sep** | Preston had daily rainfall of 1.33” | Burnley: All the contributing streams swelled the Calder to a great height. The Ribble also overflowed in places.Barrowford: Low lying places were flooded. On the back of Gisburn Road, houses were flooded as well as the mill.Padiham: Although the river rose to a great height, none of the mills were flooded.Clitheroe: Albion Mill and Shawbridge mill were flooded from the river Ribble. Houses in Shawbridge Street and Taylor Street were flooded due to the overflowing of a brook at the top of Walker Street. Houses in Waterloo, Duck Street and Salford were also flooded.Earby: The lower part of the village was flooded. The beck which runs past Victoria Mill overflowed and a neighbouring shed with 800 looms was flooded to a depth of 9 inches. Houses in Victoria Street were flooded to at least 1 foot.Hapton(W of Burnley): The farmer at Shuttleworth Hall Farm had land flooded that had not been flooded for the last 23 years and managed to save most of his farm animals by wading chest deep for up to two hours. |
| **15 Oct 1903****Manchester courier 17 Oct** | Very widespread rain with some thunderstorms | Manchester and E Lancs: Rain was accompanied by large hailstones which broke greenhouse glass. The streets were deluged for hours. |
| **4 aug 1904****Burnley Express 6 Aug****BR** | Thunderstorm preceded by very hot weather throughout the country (91F in London) | Burnley: Lightning struck and damaged 2 houses in Barracks Road.Lightning damage was also reported at Liverpool and Leyland.Liverpool: Torrential rain caused a serious fire by flooding an oil-works and raising the floating oil to the level of the gas jets. |
| **28 Jun 1905****Burnley Gazette 1 Jul****BR** | ThunderstormWilmslow Parkside 0.60 in 30 m | Wilmslow (S of Manchester): Rain was accompanied by hail almost as big as marbles. The roads and low lying areas were flooded and great damage was done to strawberry crops.Northwich: A whirlwind was observed. At noon, after a thunderstorm with hail, a whirlwind did much damage, unroofing houses and workshops, driving in gables of three houses, and sucking up nearly a ton of hay, carried it for nearly a quarter of a mile. A bookstall in the station was denuded of its contents, and a porter's cap was carried into a football field three hundred yards distant, where also were discovered some hundreds of postcards from the bookstall. |
| **9 Jul 1905****BR** | Rochdale Fieldhead 0.85 in 30 m |  |
| **3 Aug 1905****Lancs Evg post 4 Aug** | Thunderstorm | St Anne’s: Many cellars in the town were flooded. A house was struck and damaged.Carnforth: the main road from Lancaster to the north was flooded to 2 feet. |
| **8 May 1906****Lancs Evg Post 9 May****Manchester Courier 9 May****BR** | Thunderstorm | Hyde: Tramway and railway traffic was interrupted, houses were flooded and the roof of a hat factory fell in while part of the machine room of another factory was washed away. In the Godley Valley separating Hyde and Newton, most damage was done. 200 to 300 houses were flooded to a depth of 2 to 6 feet. Some people were taken out of their homes by ladders. A retaining wall adjoining Newton Bank Printworks was washed down and part of the building swept away with the water 7 feet deep. Kingston Mills and Hollow Factory were flooded. North and sons Leather works was destroyed.(Hyde Great rainstorm. "Tramway and railway traffic was interrupted, and houses were flooded so that many people left them in fear. Part of a leather works was destroyed, a roof collapsed at a hat works, and part of the machine-room at a calico print works was washed away. The total damage is estimated at over £10,000."—The Times.)Stalybridge: A culvert at high elevation in the southeast of the town burst and water descended to the centre of the town washing up a portion of the road in its passage and flooding a large number of houses. Within an hour the inundation at Portland Place through which the River Tame flows had reached 5 feet. Part of the side of the bridge was washed away. Houses in the vicinity were flooded to a depth of a foot or two of water. In Old Street water flowed in the front and out the back and carried furniture etc. Heavy rainfall between Godley and Mottram flooded the rail line to Sheffield and caused delays. An adjacent village was flooded to a depth of 2 feet and into 10 to 12 houses.Colne: All over the town the streets were full of water and cellars of houses and mills were flooded. Great Holme Mill suffered greatly where the water swept away the gable end which collapsed. Stanley Mill was also flooded with water bursting through a window. The water was knee deep in the Waterside district and at Primet bridge residents had to wade to reach their dwellings. Some large mills at the bottom of Derby Street were flooded. The rails were submerged between Colne and Nelson.Nelson, Reedyford: Foundations of a new bridge were washed away and mills and houses in the vicinity also suffered. Buxton: houses were flooded in Dale Road. The storm was also experienced in Chinley, (where hailstones of tremendous size were reported), New Mills, Chapel-en-le Frith and Hayfield. The river Goyt was a torrent and large trees were carried down. |
| **12 Jun 1906****Lancs Evg post 12 Jun****Burnley express 13 Jun** | Thunderstorm following a spell of very hot weather | Preston: A building was struck and damaged. No flooding reported.Chorley: Rainfall for 2 hours but no flooding reported. Houses were struck.Whalley: Storm of rain and hail for half an hour and the main street had the appearance of a river. Several cottages were flooded.Bacup: Steeper streets ran like rivers. Large quantities of debris choked the gullies.In Market St and Newchurch Strets the gravel was sufficient to block the tram service.One part of Gas Street was 12 inches under water. Irwell Mill was flooded.Burnley: Very local storm affected only parts of the town.One or two mills had their floors covered with water in the Accrington Road district. |
| **14 Aug 1906****Manchester Courier 15 Aug** | Rochdale Fieldhead 0.52 in 30 m | Manchester: some bye-streets were flooded and traffic was affected on some main streets also. No damage to life or property was reported.St Helen’s: A house was struck and damaged.Lytham and St Anne’s: Fairhaven and Clifton Drive were almost impassable, the water being one foot deep and right across the road. Cellars were flooded. The waiting room at Lytham Station was flooded. |
| **1 Oct 1906****Manchester Courier 5 Oct****BR** | Thunderstorm following a long dry spell – the drought was said to extend for 4 monthsRochdale 0.16 in 7.5 m | Blackburn: several streets were flooded. The junction of Sudell Close and Preston road was like a lake and much sand and gravel swept down the hill. |
| **11/12 May 1907****Burnley express 15 May** | Thunderstorm with preceding very hot weather | Pendleton: A house was struck by lightning and some sheep were killed.Storms without damage or flooding were reported at Burnley, Clitheroe and Accrington. |
| **9 Jun 1907****Manchester Courier 11 Jun****Lancashire Evg Post 10 Jun****BR** | ThunderstormLiverpool Knotty Ash 1.71 during Ts (duration not specified) | Wirral: Hailstones the size of marbles did much damage to cropsFylde to Garstang: many roads are floodedPreston: The storm was not as severe as a month ago which was of longer duration. A house was struck by lightning.Garstang: Low lying roads are flooded. A cow was killed by lightning at Nateby.Ashton on Ribble: A house at Cannon Hill was flooded. |
| **29 Jun 1907****BR** | Liverpool Huyton 0.90 in 1 h 15 m |  |
| **4 Jul 1907****Manchester Courier 5 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Bolton: the storm was accompanied by rain and hail. A house was struck and damaged at Deane.St Helen’s: The traffic was stopped for a time by flooding. Lightning damaged houses. |
| **20 Jul 1907****Lancs Evg Post 22 Jul****Burnley Gaz 24 Jul****BR** | ThunderstormHampson in Ellel 1.50 in 1 hCartmel Several sheep were killed and other damage done. The storm was most partial, little over half an inch falling at Flookburgh, Cark and Holker, while nearly 1 ¼ in. fell at Cartmel, and 2 ¼ in. at Grange | Morecambe: There was much flooding of cellars in various parts of the town and lakes were formed on the promenade by the blocking up of gullies. Hailstones the size of marbles fell for several minutes. During the storm 1.85 inches fell in a short time (duration not specified).Fylde: Rain fell in torrents for a long spell resulting in floods. Hay was damaged. |
| **4 Jun 1908****Lancs Evg Post 5 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Leigh: Two houses were struck and damaged by lightning. |
| **14 Jul 1908****BR** | Macclesfield 1.16 in 1 h 30 mBlackpool 0.32 in 20 m |  |
| **28 Aug 1908****Lancs Evg Post 29 Aug** | Widespread thunderstorms | Blackburn: A mill was struck and set alight – but no flooding was reported. |
| **20 Sep 1908****Burnley Gaz 23 Sep****BR** | Thunderstorm in Lancs and in West RidingRochdale Fieldhead 1.07 in 3 h | Burnley: Altham’s shed in Heasandford was flooded. Haydock Street near Victoria Hospital was flooded due to inadequate drainage. When the water got level with Sailor Street it flowed away. Briercliffe road was also impassable and the Baltic Fleet Hotel cellar was flooded. The school in connection with Mount Zion Methodist church in Colne Road was flooded |
| **16 Aug 1909****Manchester courier 17 Aug****BR** | Thunderstorms affecting most Lancashire towns – brief but severe.Liverpool, Huyton Vicarage Violent hail storm. Large pieces of ice fell in early morning. Hulme (Lightning struck St. Gabriel's Church and set fire to the roof. A hand-cart was struck in the street and the wheels forced off, the man pushing it was severely shaken but not injured.Wigan 0.40 in fell in 15 minutes. Hail as big as peas. Filey 0.37 in fell in 13 minutes. | Manchester: An inch of rain was registered in less than half an hour. The water became excessive for the grids and the roads were quickly flooded to a depth of several inches. Buildings and telephone services were struck by lightning. Cellars were flooded but there is no reference to location or to flooding of property.Oldham: Blackriddings Mill and the Spindle Works were flooded; boilerhouses were flooded at the Hartford and Avon Mills. At many houses the water reached a level to put out the fires and at Chadderton Police Station the cells were flooded. A woman in a cellar tenement in Dorothy Street was in danger of being drowned. The low lying districts of Crompton also suffered severely. Heywood: The sewer in John street was unable to take the volume and the water backed up into Singletons Weaving shed which was flooded to 2 feet.Blackpool: Lightning damaged the Cemetery church.Rochdale: Lightning struck the Providence Church. Two horses were killed by lightning.Eccles: The cellars of the Town Hall and adjoining shops were flooded. The water under Slack Lane bridge rose to a height of 3 feet and houses were invaded. The floods reached Togo Mill Barton and Bridgewater foundry.The storm was also reported in Liverpool, Widnes, Accrington but without andy reports of flooding. |
| **8 Jun 1910 Burnley express 11 Jun** |  | Burnley: The streets were soon flooded and the rivers rose rapidly. The only damage occurred at Burnley Wood District where a house was struck by lightning. A woman was killed by lightning.Barnoldswick: The Primitive Methodist School was flooded and a thick layer of mud left. The water in the cellar of the Liberal Club was 2 feet deep and the Albert Hall was invaded. Damage was done to houses in Albert Street. Houses in Walsmote were flooded several feet. |
| **12 Jun 1910****Burnley Gazette 18 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Earby: A storm burst on Pinhope Pike and caused havoc in Lothersdale valley and also in Earby valley the stream which flows through the older part of the town became a rushing torrent and swept down walls and bridges. Owing to the succession of bridges and buildings erected across the stream in Water Street, the street became like Venice. Houses and shops in the lower part of the street were flooded and Victoria Shed was entered. Ireland Square suffered the most and houses were 2 to 3 feet deep in water and mud. The damage in Water Street would have been greater but the water flowed across the fairground and joined the other stream which proceeds from Kelbrook |
| **27 May 1911****Manchester Courier 29 May** | thunderstorm | Blackburn: Rain tore up masses of road metal on steep streets and washed down into the centre of town choking the tramway lines. The river Blakewater rose rapidly and cellars in lowlying parts of the town were quickly flooded. Many shops were flooded. |
| **17 Jun 1911****BR** |  | Stalybridge:" The Bridge Street Cotton Mills were struck by lightning, and the fire which followed did considerable damage, the two top storeys of the building being completely destroyed."— The Times.Clayton-le-Moors " During a severe thunderstorm which passed over the Accrington district Thomas Henry Haworth, aged 50, a spinner, of Church, who was walking to Clayton-le-Moors with his wife and child, was struck by lightning and killed." The Times. |
| **5 Aug 1911****BR** | Southport Hesketh park 0.48 in 15 m |  |
| **4 Aug 1912****BR** |  | Carke in Cartmel: A horse was killed by lightning |
| **27 Oct 1913****Manchester courier 28 Oct** |  | Widnes: The storm was accompanied by a whirlwind and hail with rain. Houses were partially demolished with the gale; in Kent street windows were blown out.Manchester: It also experienced heavy rain with thunder but for less than an hour with no reports of damage or flooding. |
| **17 Jun 1914 Manchester Evening News 18 Jun****BR** | Thunderstorm | Saddleworth: Wharmton Hill seems to have been the centre of the storm. Water rushed down the gullies carrying thousands of tons of rocks and sand. A wall at Greenfield Station was washed down and blocked the line. At Uppermill a culvert burst and blocked the road. All the houses in the valleys were flooded. The mill at Dobcross was brought to a standstill and the flood did much damage. The cellars of the Railway Hotel Greenfield were filled.BR notes from the Ribble Valley observer that a terrible thunderstorm burst on Red Shaw Hill near Newby Head 2 ½ miles from Gearstones and the same distance from Ling Gill Bridge and flooded the Dent Valley as well as the Ribble. The water was very muddy and a kind of marl deposit was left on the bed of the river. The backwaters were several inches thick with the stuff. A few tons of stones were removed by the torrent.WG has no reference to rainfall or flooding.  |
| **18 Jun 1914****Burnley Echo 20 Jun****Manchester courier 19 Jun** | Thunderstorm, local in effectTemperature in Manchester reached 76 F, the hottest of the year. Burnley 0.73 inch in 1 hour | Burnley: The storm affected the west of the town whilst the east was untouched. Heavy rain fell for nearly an hour. A pub, Malakoff Tavern was struck and damaged. In the hollow under Cog Lane rail bridge water reached almost to the top of the lampposts partly due to blocked gullies. In Gannow Lane houses at the lower end were flooded to two or three feet. Woodbine Mill was flooded and the Grey Mare Inn Gannow Lane had barrels floating in the cellar. A house was struck and damaged by lightning.Mossley: Water swept down steep streets carrying debris. In Stamford Road there was 12 inches of water running down, emptying in the railway station and the Empire cinema which was like a swimming bath with 3 feet of water in the dressing rooms. Jacob’s Ladder abutting Stamford Road was swept by rain and carried much debris. A mill was struck by lightning and set alight. The Clark and Wilson and the Croft Mill were flooded.Scores of houses were flooded in Mid-Cheshire. |
| **1 Jul 1914****Liverpool Echo 2 Jul****Burnley News 4 Jul****Manchester Evg. News 1 Jul****Rochdale Observer 4 Jul** | Thunderstorm following hot weather – temperature reaching 77F.Frodsham Simonsdelf 0.46 in 15 m | Birkenhead: A number of houses, Birkenhead Hotel were struck and cattle were killed by lightning.Rochdale: A haymaker was killed by lightning whilst sheltering under a farm cart. A number of huildings were struck and damaged. A horse and a cow were killed at Littleborough.Lightning damage was also reported in St Helens and Widnes and Pendleton where 4 houses collapsed.Broughton: several streets were flooded.Burnley: Just one or two cellars floodedPadiham: A house was struck by lightning and damaged.Nelson: Various buildings were also struck.Sabden: There was flooding at Cobden Union Mills mainly from the inadequacy of roof gutters. Steiner’s printworks also suffered flooding. The Water was several feet deep on Whalley Road.Accrington: Surface water flooding occurred at the end of Scaitcliffe Street and Ormerod Street near the railway bridge where the road was 2 to 3 feet under water. Howard and Bullough Departmnets were also flooded.Manchester: Limited damage was caused by lightning and flood effects were limited to sporting events. |
| **12 Jul 1914****Manchester Courier 13 Jul** | Thunderstorm lasting less than 1 hour | Mossley: The downpour swept from the upper to the lower part of town. Many tons of sand were swept down Jacob’s Ladder on to the main road, Stamford road. Abney Congregational Church was struck by lightning.Ashton: A man was found dead in bed, thought to have been struck by lightning. Many houses were struck and several people injured by lightning. Streets were turned into torrents. A street in the Smallshaw district had a foot of water. |
| **17 Jun 1914****BR****Westmorland Gazette 20 Jun** | Kendal (Holmcroft) 0.64” in 40 mins |  |
| **20 Jul 1914****Chester chronicle 25 Jul** | Downpour with very little thunder and lightning | Frodsham: For the first time since the main sewer was built down Bank Street the sewer was unable to carry the flow and backed up as far as the Post Office on Main Street. Lower Main Street represented a river and Booth Street and Marsh Green were flooded. |
| **30 Jul 1915****Chester Chronicle 31 JUl** |  | Ellesmere port: Heavy rain shortly flooded one of the main streets, the water running through several low lying homes, owing to the inefficiency of grids to take away the water. |
| **9/10 Aug 1915****Manchester Evg news 13 Aug****Rochdale Observer 11 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Manchester, Hulme: Two men working in a sewer forty feet below York Street were swept off their feet by a sudden flood and drowned. The inquest noted that the water in the sewer rose from 12 inches to 2 feet 9 inches in 4 minutes and shortly afterwards to fill the 4 foot 6 inch sewer and rise in the manhole.Rochdale: Heavy rain fell for more than half an hour. Streams dashed down every incline and flooded houses on the way and carried masses of debris. The Flying Horse Hotel and the shop adjoining the church Steps were flooded. The cellars of a bank were flooded. The water level in Sudden Brook rose four or five feet in an incredibly short time; it overflowed the bank and flooded the Sudden Manufacturing Company’s mill. Several other mills were flooded. |
| **23 Jun 1916****BR** | Southport Hesketh 0.37 in 10 m |  |
| **3 Jul 1916****Rochdale Observer 5 Jul** |  | Rochdale: Rain fell in torrents for nearly one hour. The river and streets became swollen with water in a short time. Several mills were flooded and debris washed into the street. |
| **14 Aug 1914****BR** | Blundellsands Myra 1.09 in 30 15th daily rainfallHeysham 3.33 inMorecambe 3.69 in |  |
| **17 Aug 1916****Burnley News 19 Aug** |  | Burnley: Several houses were struck by lightning but no flooding was reported. (Note also flooding at Todmorden) |
| **12 Aug 1917****Lancs evg. Post 13 Aug****Burnley News 15 Aug.** | Thunderstorm | Nelson: Several houses in low lying parts of the town were flooded. The subway at Hibson road was flooded and impassable. Burnley: cellars and basements were flooded. |
| **14 Aug 1917****Rochdale Observer 18 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Rochdale: A severe thunderstorm occurred at Crompton between Rochdlae and Oldham. Many houses and cellars along the Beal valley were flooded. The tower of Lyon Mill was struck by lightning and water poured into the basement of the mill to a depth of 2 feet.Chorley: Downpour of hail and rain. Low lying portion of Market street and Water Street were flooded. Some houses were struck by lightning. |
| **21 May 1918****BR** | Bolton Queens Park 0.47 in 15 m |  |
| **20 Jul 1918****Rochdale Observer 24 Jul****BR** | Thunderstorm accompanied by hailThe last of the series of thunderstorms which characterized the third week of July brought highly localized splashes of heavy rainfall in the Midlands and north of England. | Rochdale: Much damage was caused by flooding especially at Littleborough, Smallbridge and Milnrow. In Rochdale itself there was little damage although the River Roach as well as the canal was very high after the storm.Littleborough: Here and Summit (apart from Walsden) were the greatest sufferers from the storm. Clough Mill was flooded to a depth of 7 feet after the mail dam overflowed in the Summit District. Much water also found its way along Clough Road with debris carried as far as Denhurst. Cottages on either side of Blackstone Edge Road were flooded. Flagstones and kerbstones were torn up. At Dearnley water rushed down side streets on to the tramway and debris was 2 feet deep in places. Pigs and fowls were drowned. The river completely overflowed its banks in three quarters of an hour. Several houses were flooded in Smallbridge. Basements of houses and shops in lower parts of Milnrow and Newhey were flooded.A Littleborough resident noted that the first effects of rain and hail were the stream of water down Temple Lane bringing a load of rubbish. Afew minutes later a much larger stream came crashing down the road taking the water from Cloughead into the Roach. In a few minutes it was 4 feet wide and 9 or 10 inches deep. A few minutes later it covered the whole width of the Todmorden road carrying stones and debris and knocking down walls. It dug a deep channel in the roadway.Wall of Water River Roach (Mersey)Elsewhere the Burnley Express notes that there is still a shortage of water and presumably the storm had no serious effects there. |
| **10 May 1919****BR****Westmoreland gazette 17 May****BR** | Caton The School House 1.82 in 1 h 30 m | Thunderstorms were widespread in Westmoreland, north Lancashire and West Riding of Yorkshire.Carnforth: Torrential rain washed potatoes etc out of the ground. The surface of the main roads was much damaged and houses were flooded.BR notes that owing to the hilly nature of the district serious damage was done by flood water, roads having their surfaces torn away and being blocked by debris. At one point a beck was diverted from its natural course, a hole 40 ft. deep being cut out, and a bridge almost washed away.  |
| **27 May 1920 BR** | Whaley bridge 0.80” in 20 m |  |
| **29 May 1920****Lancs Evg post 31 May****BR** | Thunderstorm2.82 inches in 24 hours at Preston most of it in 3 hours.Leyland Worden Hall 1.65 in 20 m (3.23 in day)Upholland Grammar Scl 1.50 in 38 mLeigh Leesrigg 1.00 in 1 hThe most intense rainfalls of the day, however, occurred in a tractextending from Lancashire to Lincolnshire, particularly at the twoextremities. At the western end the principal centre was to the south of Preston at Worden Hall, Leyland. At Walton-le-Dale, out of a total of 3.25 in., nearly 3 in. fell during an hour and a half from 17 h., but no precisely timed measurement appears to have been made. Local accounts suggest that the rainfall was at least equally severe on Bleasdale Fells and Beacon Fell, and an extraordinary rise took place in the Barton Brook, a tributary of the River Wyre.This was also the occasion of the great floods at Louth in Lincolnshire. | St Helens: The town and district suffered considerable damage after three periods of intense rainfall and hail. The road to Warrington at Peasley Cross was flooded to a depth of 5 feet and was closed to traffic. A wall at the borough sanatorium was knocked down by lightning and the adjacent stream flowed into the grounds and the administration block. Water burst up from grids and manholes. Many houses were flooded at Parr and Moss Nook with water reaching the kitchen ceilings. The St Helens newspaper office basement was flooded. At Reigate, Sutton, Thatto Heath and Watery Lane, scores of houses were flooded. Macadam roads all over the area have been badly damaged. Leigh: The town experienced its worst flood in years and for hours numerous people were trapped in upstairs rooms. Leigh Road towards Bolton was flooded and the Firs Post Office was badly flooded. Water was pumped out of houses, shops and the Hippodrome.Blackburn: Cellars and basements in low lying parts of the town were flooded and many streets were badly damaged by water. In Shear Brown portions of the road were torn up and several cottages in other parts of the town were flooded. In King William Street and Sudell Cross, shopkeepers were engaged in diverting the water or sweeping it away from their doors.Burnley, Accrington, Preston: Thunderstorms also occurred but were of brief duration and no damage was reported.Eccelston (S of Preston): The Sid brook rose and flooded adjacent fields. Trees, hedges and fences were torn down and footbridges swept away. At Heskin three houses were flooded and at Dog Kennel residents had to take refuge upstairs. Much damage was done to gardens and poultry and pigs were lost or had to be rescued. Woodplumpton (North of Preston): Secondary roads were extensively flooded. At Sowerby Hall 3 lambs, a foar, cows and poultry were drowned.Leyland: Newsome Street off Hough lane was worst hit with water up to 3 feet deep in houses. Chapel Brow was flooded and the Gasworks fires were in danger of being extinguished (but escaped). Seven Stars Hotel was struck by lightning.Croston (SW of Preston): The River Yarrow rose about 10 feet and reached the crown of the bridge leading to the Hillocks which was entirely flooded out. Town road, Station Road, Highfield Lane, Grapes Lane and Westheads Road were under water to a depth of 2 feet, as was also the Rectory grounds and The Rectory. The church escaped. Croston Brickworks were flooded. Thornley (NE of Preston): Tens of acres of land are under water in the Loud valley. There were no reports of houses flooded.Serious damage was done to railway lines and roads. Near Brock Station the floods washed out a small bridge and made a 15 yard gap in the railway embankment. The valley between Preston and Deepdale station on the Longridge line was flooded and trains were cancelled. Caldwell bridge (Stonebridge brow 4 ½ miles from Preston) across the Barton Brook collapsed cutting road traffic.The most serious damage was in the Brock valley between Claughton and St Michaels where the rains rushed down Fair Snape, Parlick Hill and Beacon Hill causing the river to rise at a great rate, sweeping everything before it. The banks were quickly overflown and cattle had to be rescued with difficulty. Trees were torn up and blocked bridges, notably at Brock Station where backed up water flooded houses in Parlick Terrace to a depth of 3 to 4 feet. The bridge was endangered and damaged and rail traffic was stopped in time. The embankment failed and the water poured through the gap into Brock village where houses at the lower end were flooded to 3 feet. Brookhouse farm was also flooded. Roebuck Hotel and the Post Office were flooded.The centres of heaviest rainfall were in England, and more than 2 in. fell in three districts respectively in Lancashire, South Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire. To the south of Preston more than 3 in fell. In the district surrounding this centre of great rainfall more than 1 in. was observed over an unbroken area stretching from the Mersey to near Kirkby Stephen, and from the coast at Southport inland to Rochdale.  |
| **12 May 1921****BR** | Bramhall Bramhall Lane 2.00 in 1 h | A secondary depression of no great importance crossed the south of England but at Bramhall near Stockport 2.00 in. fell in an hour, |
| **11 Oct 1921****BR** | Newhey sewage Wks 2.28 in 2 h | The passage of secondary depressions gave considerable falls from 9 to 11 Oct, the principal centres lying in the west of Ireland on the 9th, and in the centre and east of England on the two following days. |
| **21 May 1922****BR** | Hampson in Ellel (Lancaster) 1.13 in 20 m | BR notes that the falls reported on 21st from Grimsby, Otham and Hampson-in-Ellel were accompanied by severe hail, and the amounts given must be considered as minima. (See The Meteorological Magazine, June, 1922, pp. 129-130.) |
| **1 Sep 1922****Burnley Express 4 Oct 1922****BR** | Burnley 1.5 inches in 75 minutes in a local thunderstormDaily totalsSouthport Hesketh Park 2.56St Annes on Sea 3.71St Annes on Sea Lawrence Ho 3.75Blackpool Obs 3.06 | Burnley: A local thunderstorm was reported in relation to egg laying! But no other information was provided.A depression reached central Scotland on the 31st, being very shallow, and then started to move southwards. The heavy rain on the Lancashire coast during the night August 31st-September 1st appears to have been connected with this movement. |
| **12/13 Nov 1923****Burnley Express 17 Nov****BR** | Ingleton 3.52Not a thunderstorm – 41 hours continuous rain(The annual rainfall to this point was reported to be a record)Rainfall on 2 days 11 and 12th Oldham gas works 1.58 2.53Oldham Brushes Clough .. 2.69Rochdale (Spring Mill, Whitworth) 1.90 2.50Rochdale (Cowm, Whitworth) 2.14 2.80Sedbergh (Brigg Flats) 1.78 2.69Sedbergh (Havera Bank) \* 2.75 | The main damage was in the Clitheroe district where 300 houses were flooded and two quiet streams became raging torrents. The floods stopped mills including Albion, Holmes, Brewere and Waterloo Mills. Schools were closed. Floods also occurred from the overflowing of the Pendle Water. BR notes that according to the Liverpool correspondent of The Times, writing on November 14th, the floods at Sale on the Mersey were the most severe within memory, the water being 11 ft. deep at Sale Priory. At Clitheroe, 300 houses were flooded, and at Bury fire engines had to be requisitioned to pump water out of houses. |
| **31 May/1 Jun 1924 Lancs Evg Post 2 Jun****Burnley Express 4 Jun** | Widespread flooding from thunderstorms and more prolonged rainfall affecting Birmingham, Welsh Borders and Cheshire mainly.Wirral 3.30 inches in 24 hours but nearly 1.6 inches in 1.25 hoursDaily rainfallsGarston 2-81Garston (Grassendale Pk.) 2.50 Liverpool (Rathbone Rd.) 2.70 Liverpool (Lark Lane. 2.75 Liverpool (Newsham Pk.) 2.66Many daily totals in Cheshire were > 2.50 | Cheshire and Wirral Peninsula: The river Weaver at Nantwich rose 18 feet during the night and houses on the western side were flooded. There were no reports of flooding in Lancashire.Burnley: A three year old boy fell in the swollen river and drowned. |
| **11 Jun 1924****BR** | Heysham Harbour 0.40 in 10 m |  |
| **19 Jun 1924****BR** | Leyland Worden Hall 0.42 in 10 m (0.35 in 4 m approx) |  |
| **17 Aug 1924****Lancs Evg Post****21 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Ribblesdale and Bowland: Miles of road surface was completely washed away. Brooks which were a mere trickle became raging torrents in a few minutes. Hundreds of tons of earth and stones were washed on to roads which were blocked at two places. Fences, footbridge and trees were carried down the valley. At Langden Valley waterworks from which Preston gets its water supply; the flood rose several feet above the concrete dam. There was also serious damage at the Blackburn Works in the Brennan valley where many sheds were dislodged from their foundations and several landslides occurred. Hodder and Ribble were both in flood causing widespread agricultural damage.An embankment collapsed between Clitheroe and Whalley blocking the railway line.Colne: the river rose and flooded house in the Waterside area.Sabden: The Union Mill was temporarily stopped as flood water entered the boiler room. |
| **22 Aug 1924****Lancs Evg post 23 Aug****BR** | Thunderstorms widespread in South of EnglandWest Kirby (Cheshire) 1.59 in 1 h 30 m | Stalybridge: Two houses were seriously damaged by lightning. Lightning strikes were also reported around the Manchester region. |
| **19 May 1925****Br** | Bolton Queens park 0.95 in 30 mIn May, thunderstorms and hail showers were widespread and numerous. Liverpool had as many as 10 days with thunderstorms. |  |
| **22 Aug 1925****BR** | Leyland Worden Hall 0.50 in 19 m |  |
| **9 Jul 1926****BR** | Northwich Barnton 0.38 in 10 m |  |
| **18 Jul 1926****BR** | Southport Hesketh park 0.20 in 5 mLancaster Greg Obs 1.20 in 15 mBlackpool Met Obs 1.00 in 20 mWest Kirby in Cheshire 1 -55 inch fell during a thunderstorm lasting from 16 h. to 16 h. 55 m. | Entries occur in the table for Lancaster, Southport and Blackpool. At Lancaster the intense rain occurred just after and at Southport and Blackpool just before midnight on the 19th. |
| **20 Sep 1926****BR** | Birkenhead 0.41 in 10 m (0.55 in 15 m) | On the morning of 20th thunderstorms accompanied by heavy local rains, were associated in northern districts with the incursion of a cold northerly current. Entries for this day are for West Kirby, to the west of Birkenhead; Birkenhead and Southport. At West Kirby the rain fell shortly after midnight, at Birkenhead -41 inch fell between 3h. 25 m. and 3 h. 35 m., and -55 inch between 4 h. 15m. and 4 h. 30 m. At Southport, during the most intense portion of the storm, 0.20 inch fell in 2 ½ minutes. |
| **4 Nov 1926****BR** | Ulpha 2.68Duddon Seathwaite Sch 4.43Hawkshead Tower Bank 2.87Ambleside Skelwith Fold 3.75Windermere Hammar Bank 2.68Windermere Holehird 3.18Windermere Brockhole 3.21Ambleside White Craggs 3.64Ambleside Wansfell 3.32Ambleside Market Sq 3.57Rydal Stepping Stones 3.91Rydal 3.96Rydal High Close 3.18Rydal The hall 4.02Dungeon Ghyll 3.28Grasmere The Wray 4.29 | Rain was widespread in western Britain in the southern portion of a depression the centre of which skirted the NW coast of Scotland. Heaviest rain fell on high ground. Many rivers overflowed their banks and caused considerable damage by flooding, roads were made impassable and railway services were delayed.BR has rainfall distribution map and synoptic charts for 4 and 5 Nov. |
| **5 Jul 1927****BR** | West Kirby St Andrews vic 0.63 in 19 mSouthport Hesketh park 0.20 in 6 m |  |
| **12 Jul 1927****BR** | Poynton waterloo 1.31 in 70 mLiverpool Monument Place 0.20 in 5 m |  |
| **14 Jul 1927****BR** |  | At Strinesdale Reservoir, in the Oldham District, the fall for the rainfall day was 4.21 inches and "the bulk of this rain fell in from three to four hours." The storm was local and apparently confined to a width of two miles and travelled up from the south-west, subsequently receding in the same direction." |
| **21 Jul 1927****Burnley Express 23 Jul****BR** | ThunderstormNelson 1.45 inches in 24 hoursStalybridge 1.62 in 50 m | Burnley: The streets in many areas were flooded to a few inches and the river rose very rapidly. A heifer was killed by lightning. The Thursden valley was flooded and a new reservoir there was damaged. The torrent flowed over the bank and flooded the engine room.Nelson, Colne: Floods resulted in the death of a man by drowning at Nelson when he was carried away by the river that flows through Victoria Park. Low lying places and buildings were quickly flooded from the intense rainfall. The subway under the railway between Hibson Road and Hibson Street was flooded to a depth of 4 feet. At the junction of Railway Street and Waids House Road there was flooding to a depth of 2 feet, and similarly at Carr Hall Road. Nearly all the mills in low lying districts were flooded with water finding its way into cellars and warehouses. In the Clover Hill district operatives were engaged in baling water out of the mills. In the Netherfield Road and Waterworth street area houses were flooded severely.Trawden: The river adjacent to Chapel Street overflowed and carried away a strong stone wall and flowed into the houses to a yard deep. An old resident said that he had not seen anything like it in his 65 years connection with Trawden. Rock Lane and the road in front of residences leading to Stunsteads farm had the road demolished, creating a trench a yard deep in the middle of the road. Huge boulders were carried down to the foot of Rock Lane. Trawden sewage Works was submerged and a nine foot boundary wall was knocked down. The Black Carr Mill and forest shed were both flooded.Brierfield: The Every Street District was most affected. Garden crops were destroyed at Fence.BR notes that on July 21st, heavy rain caused severe flooding in the district of Glasgow, the north-east of England generally and near Stalybridge. At Chew Reservoir, a few miles to the east of Oldham, rain began about 15 h. 45 m. and was particularly intense after 16 h. In the Swineshaw Valley, to the north-west, 1.62 inches fell between 15 h. 40 m. and 16 h. 30 m. The run-off was very rapid so that the stream was practically normal the same night. |
| **20 Aug 1927****Burnley News 24 Aug****BR** | ThunderstormDaily rainfall for 18thBolton W.W. (Delph) 2-51 Brindle (Whiteholme) 3-15No daily rf given for 20th  | Ribbledale: In the Bawdlands district water flowed across fields into a road and several cottages were flooded to a depth of 1 foot (the third time within one month that these houses have been entered). A house at Low Moor and another at Shaw bridge were flooded. Moorland stream became raging cataracts and footpaths were cut into furrows, sweeping away fencing and in some cases sheep which were seen carried down the Ribble.  |
| **8 Aug 1928****Liverpool Post and Mercury** **BR** | Birkenhead Bidston 0.35 in 5 m | BR reports as follows with the Liverpool Mercury quote “The intense rain at Bidston Observatory, near Liverpool, on the 8th occurred between 17 h. 15 m. and 17 h. 20 m., and is reported as being rather heavier than the last severe thunderstorm which occurred there on July 28th last year. The following details are taken from the Liverpool Post and Mercury for the 9th :—Seldom in this country is the approach of a storm so clearly heralded as was that of the one which struck Liverpool shortly after six o'clock last evening. Passengers on the ferryboats and the waiting crowds on the landing stage saw what appeared to be a wall of thick mist rapidly approaching across the water, and within a few seconds the deluge burst upon them with tropical intensity.So heavy was the downpour that those who were unprepared with mackintoshes or umbrellas were drenched to the skin in the few seconds taken in rushing from the boats to the shelters on the stage. Scores of people ready to cross to the Cheshire side waited for the following steamer, rather than venture into the open the few yards necessary to cross the gangway.In the centre of the city the gutters were turned into foaming waterways in a few minutes, and taxicabs and other vehicles raised showers of spray as they cleft the swimming streets. Water Street, Brunswick Street and James Street were converted into miniature streams. Pedestrians making their way to the pierhead quickly took shelter in shops and office buildings, and watched the water swirl over the kerb on to the pavement. The street grids were inadequate to cope with the fall, and only low spouting fountains indicated their position." |
| **31 Jul 1929****BR** | Southport Hesketh Park 0.20 in 6 mNelson Walton Lane 0.32 in 8 m  |  |
| **6 Aug 1929****Burnley News 10 Aug** | ThunderstormBolton Queens park 0.50 in 15 mBolton, -36 inch fell between 12 h. 55 m. and 13 h. -50 inch by 13 h. 10 m. and -75 inch by 13 h. 35 m. | Sabden: Watts Street was flooded as well as one house on Whalley road. |
| **11 Nov 1929****BR** | Seathwaite Vic 2.95Ambleside (White Craggs) 2.59Rydal (The Hall) 2.57Grasmere (The Wray) 2.62 | Rainfall was widespread throughout England and Wales and a total of 8.31 was recorded in the Rhondda valley. Full description with synoptic chart in BR 1929 |
| **26 May 1930****Burnley News 28 May** | ThunderstormBurnley Queens Park had a daily total of 1.39 inches and most of this fell in one hour | Burnley: Several mills in the Burnley Lane District were flooded and work was suspended. Basements and cellars of houses in Briercliffe Road district were flooded in some cases to a depth of several feet. Victoria hospital received much flood water from Haydock Street and the basement of the Institution was flooded to a depth of 3 and a half feet. A culvert under Haydock street gave way and all the houses from 15 to 37 were invaded and the water also affected Wilton Street. Heasandford Mill and the neighbouring Heasandford house were flooded from the goyt which comes down from Rukin valley Farm and the river Doe. The cellar of Baltic Fleet Hotel was flooded to a depth of 8 feet and numbers 50 and 52 on Briercliffe Road were flooded to a depth of one foot. All the mills in the vicinity of elm Street were affected including the Livingstone Mill and Hargreaves New hall Mill. |
| **11 Jun 1930****BR** |  |  |
| **18 Jun 1930****Lancs evg post 19 Jun****Burnley News 21 Jun****Lancs Evg post 28 Jul** | ThunderstormSabden Whinns House 2.66 in 2 h | Chorley: two men struck by lightning and injured. Lower parts of the town were flooded as drains were unable to take the flow. Market Street was affected (including the royal billiard Hall) and at one time had 12 inches of water. Shops and cellars were flooded and a sewer burst in Moor road flooding neighbouring property. There was extensive flooding at several local mills and in some work had to be suspended. Leyland Works was flooded. Brown’s Mill was flooded.Burnley: Flooding at Manchester Road, Summit interrupted the tram service. Houses were flooded at Read and in the Sabden Valley. Kemp’s weaving shed at read was flooded from a sudden rush of water.In Hambleden View several houses were flooded to a depth of 2 feet and the Stork Hotel was also flooded. The Baltic fleet Hotel in Briercliffe road had again water in its cellar but not as bad as in May but the two neighbouring cottages were flooded. There was again a certain amount of flooding at Livingstone Mill and New Hall Mill in Elm Street. At Higher Trapp the water broke down walls and piled stones on the roadway in whins Lane and excavations 3 or 4 feet deep were made. Sabden: Walls were knocked over on the Whalley Sabden road. The road was torn up on the Clitheroe Road. Many houses were flooded as the water rushed down the streets in great volume.River Ribble: The torrential rain is believed to have been the cause of the complete destruction of fish life in the Ribble for a length of 30 miles from the junction with the Calder to the sea. Fish were found dead in the deposited sludge – roach, dace, gudgeon, eels etc. This was caused by flood waters in the Calder, Darwen etc. As a result of 2 inches of rain in a very short period. |
| **29 Aug 1930****Lancs evg Post 30 Aug****Burnley News 30 Aug****BR** | Thuderstorms after a heatwave in which 46 deaths were reported94F reported in LondonHail in some places as big as pigeon’s eggs.Helmshore Clough House 1.18 in 30 mGoyt Valley Oldfield 1.70 in 70 mGoyt valley Upper Hall 1.40 in 70 mStorms were reported in Scotland, Wales and London etc. | Bolton: Hailstones were packed together to give pieces of ice.Buxton: Very large hailstones also occurred. In the Guyt Valley near the Cat and Fiddle, the rain was described as a cloudburst and the stream rose at an astonishing rate and soon became a torrent. Trees were uprooted and two stone bridges were swept away.Burnley: Streets were quickly transformed into flowing streams but there were comparatively few instances of flooding. One schoolroom was flooded and the Bankhouse Shed was affected.At Helmshore, near Manchester, the observer notes that, " the hailstones were fully the size of pullet eggs " BR quotes an observer that “on the west side of the Goyt Valley there was an area of rainfall of tremendous intensity, for on the sites of what are normally very small tributary streams flowing in from the west, great masses of rocks and boulders have been hurled down and a chasm fifty yards across has been torn in the valley side. About 2 miles from its source an old set of stepping-stones has been entirely removed and the whole aspect of the spot changed. I was told that the water came down in a great wave several feet high."Goyt inflow to Erwood reservoir SK012746 |
| **11 Sep 1930****BR** | Formby The Dunes 1.53 in 75 m | The storm was said to be very local. |
| **6 Jun 1931****Lancs Evg post 15 Jun** |  | Blackpool: Reference back from later flood to the flood a week previous when water in some houses reached a depth of 4 feet and left behind quantities of sand and sewage. |
| **14 Jun 1931****BR****Burnley News 17 Jun****Lancs Evg. Post 15 Jun** | Barrow-in-Furness (Gas Works) 3.00Barrow-in-Furness (Sewage Works) 2.65Southport Hesketh Park 0.39 in 10 mBurnley 0.87 inches in one hourBlackpool 1.53 inches between 1 pm and 6 pmWidespread storms and floods occurred in SW, London and midlands. | Concurrently line squall gave thunderstorms and intense rains in the Midlands and a tornado in Birmingham. In the Lake district there was a ‘cloudburst at Bootle as follows:THE CLOUDBURSTS NEAR BOOTLE (CUMBERLAND) JUNE 14th, 1931. F. Hudleston On the afternoon of Sunday, June 14th, 1931, thunderstorms and very heavy rain occurred over the whole of north-western England and cloudbursts were reported at various places Burnley: Thunderstorm for an hour and a half. Flooding of houses occurred in the Brunshaw area. In Brockenhourst Street cellars and kitchens were flooded to a depth of 10 to 12 inches. Drains were incapable of coping and manhole covers were lifted. Elsewhere in the town cellars and lower floors were flooded to a couple of inches.Clitheroe: The church at Waddington was struck by lightning and the roof was damaged leading to internal flooding; a brook running through the village rose a yard in 15 minutes and houses at the lower end of the village were flooded. Two cottages at Leewood Brow were flooded. The flood seemed to be initiated near Cob Castle on Waddington Fell and the road down from Moorcock Inn became like a river carrying all before it before reaching the Ribble at Brungerley. The teahouse attached to the Moorcock Inn at the foot of Waddington Fell was flooded. The streets were littered with debris and trout and large quanties of tar macadam were ripped up. At least 30 cottages were flooded. The Higher Buck Hotel and Dugdale’s shop were also flooded. Lower down the village, houses that usually stand high above flood level were also flooded and beyond the church several farms and cottages were also flooded. Sheep and poultry were carried away. A camping party at Waddington Fell heard an unaccountable roar before the flood swept away a wall close to the camp and they had to make a bolt for it through swirling waters.Chorley: Low lying parts of Chorley and district were flooded in some cases to a depth of over one foot. A manhole top was blown off in Astley Park. The heavy rain was accompanied by strong winds (which blew away Jubilee decorations).Fleetwood: the thunderstorm lasted over an hour. Water entered homes in Milton Street, Poulton Road, Warrenhurst road, Park Avenue, Birch Street and Willow Street.Lytham St Annes: Some streets were flooded axle deep at Church Road, St Annes and Freckleton Street, Lytham. Heavy rains at Warton flooded the main Preston to Lytham road to a depth of 3 feet.Blackpool: Thunderstorm for nearly 3 hours. Houses were flooded in the Victoria Road District in some cases to over one foot deep and two feet deep on the streets. There was reference back to the previous flood which was even more serious; in this case there was no sewage in the flood. Rain made cracks in the macadam at Whitegate Drive and the tram service was suspended.Lancaster: Manhole covers were forced open and the road surface lifted by the force of water, including Railways Street, South Road, Penny Street Bridge, Quarry Road, Bowerham street and Owen Road. Houses in emerson Street, Scotforth were flooded and shops in Lower Church Street were flooded to several inches. The water was several inches deep in the Parade Room of the Town Hall.At Dolphinholme the River Wyre was in full spate and farmers had to drive cattle, knee-deep to safety.Hoghton: The Boar’s Head Hotel was flooded to 5 or 6 feet in the cellars and other neighbouring property suffered.Preston: Torrentil rains lasted two hours and many streets of the town were underwater, the drains being incapable of carrying the flow. Damage was done in the Tulketh road district of Ashton on Ribble; a shop cellar was flooded to road level and subsidence occurred; a score of houses were flooded seriously and dozens of others required mopping up. Other parts of the town were affected to a lesser extent; a cellar of a hotel in Deepdale was flooded. In the avenue in Moor Park the water accumulated to a depth of several inches.At Caterall, the Calder overflowed on to the Preston Lancaster Road to a depth of up to 4 feet. At Walton le Dale many cottages were flooded and water flowed into the subway at Bamber Bridge.Hale: Low lying houses and works in the Hale district were flooded.Stockport, Heavilly: the main Buxton road was flooded to a depth of 3 to 4 feet. Cellars of shops were flooded.Bury: Cellars and shops were flooded and residents waded knee-deep among their furniture |
| **17 Jun 1931****Lancs Evg Post 17 Jun** | 2-hour thunderstorm after recent previous thunderstorm | Blackpool: Pumps are working night and day in the Victoria Street district after another thunderstorm today where houses have been flooded to a depth of 3 feet and cellars engulfed in three storms during the previous 10 days. |
| **7 Jul 1931 BR** | High Lane (Cheshire) 1.03 in 45 m |  |
| **15 Aug 1931****Burnley News 19 Aug****Burnley Express 19 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Burnley: Flooding was reported in several districts but the damage was said to be light. Effects were mainly from lightning which struck and damaged houses and affected electrical fittings. At the junction of Bacup Road and Todmorden Road the water was about a foot deep. The Rivers Calder and Brun were bank high. Clowbridge had its greatest flood for many years and a number of houses and cellars were flooded. Oak Mill was flooded to 4 inches. A footbridge was washed away at Dunnockbridge Farm. Water swept down Swinshaw Lane carrying stones which blocked the road. At Lovecroft houses were flooded to several inches. On the Bacup Road several houses were flooded and a cow was killed by lightning.Haslingden: In the Acre district damage was done by the bursting of culverts and Acre Mill Lodge overflowed. The pressure on the culvert blew up parts of Pilling Street where water rushed 10 inches deep through houses and cellars were flooded to nearly 8 feet. |
| **19 aug 1931****Lancs Evg Post 20 Aug** | ThunderstormSouthport hesketh Park 0.39 in 13 mLiverpool Monument Place 0.78 in 15 mDarwen: over an inch of rain in less than half an hour | Darwen: Scores of houses were flooded and several mills had to be stopped because of water coming through the roof. The main roads in the town were turned into lakes with the water spurting up from the drains to the height of a few feet. In Bridge Street and Market Street where the roads were turned into rivers, shops premises were affected and had their cellars flooded. Paving stones were dislodged in the steep Wraith Street. In Police Street the water entered the police station by the back yard. Furniture and carpets were floating about in the stream that inundated a row of cottages between Hillside Avenue and Astley Bank. A chip shop opposite Bury Fold was inundated to at least a foot. Four houses in Union Street, two in Hollins Grove Street, two in Blackburn Road and three in Greenwood Street were also flooded. A house at 222 Bolton Road was also badly flooded.Withnell: the main Blackburn Wigan line was flooded to a depth of several feet at Withnell Station. Water rushed between the platforms of the moorland station like a stream in spate; it caused damage to the embankment.Chorley: Low lying streets were flooded; there was no mention of houses.Blackburn: Lightning fused lights in the centre of town and stopped the railway clock. Houses had furniture damaged by the flood, pavements were lifted by the water and much litter was left in the streets. Blakewater foundry at the bottom of Addison Street was flooded and left with a covering of mud. Shops were damaged by lightning.Sawley: Near Smithies Bridge the water was nearly a foot deep on the road. Several houses in Sawley were flooded as water swept down the hillside.Accrington: A five year old boy fell in the River Hyndburn and was washed away and drowned. No parts of Accrington were seriously flooded. The road at Church Railway Bridge was several feet under water. |
| **11 Jul 1932****Burnley Express 16 Jul****Lancs Evg post 11/12 Jul****BR** | Thunderstorm most severe and widespread in east south of England and Midlands. Two killed by lightning in Bradford and Derbyshire.More than 3 inches was recorded over small areas near Stalybridge. As much as 4.74 inches was measured at Broadbottom (Harewood Lodge) (Cheshire) and 5-33 inches at Barnoldswick (Rainhall Road),this fall being the largest daily rainfall in 1932. At Barnoldswick (White Moor Pumping Station) rain commenced after 13h. 30m. and was at its heaviest at 15h. 30m. and was practically continuous in a heavy downpour up to Ih. on the 12th. During the first two hours hail as large as a shilling and up to half an inch thick was experienced.More than 2 inches was also recorded over small areas at Retford and Bawtry, to the south of Tadcaster, and at Knaresborough, Thirsk and Pickering, while more than 3 inches fell at Felixkirk near Thirsk. | Burnley: ‘This was one of the worst floods Burnley has experienced’. Burnley Lane was the area most affected and from Harle Syke to Duke Bar, Briercliffe road was submerged causing havoc to property on the level with the road. The drains were quite inadequate. The stream which flows into Harle Syke Mill caused the reservoir to overflow and pour down the Burnley Road forming a lake near Briercliffe Mill where the boilerhouses was flooded to 4 to 5 feet. Surface water from Finsley Hill poured down Milton Street and Finsley Street. Under the Central club the water was 6 to 7 feet deep. Houses in Oaken Place were badly flooded and in Cop Row the water rose to about 3 feet. Houses were flooded in Haydock Street and the cellars of Victoria Hospital were flooded to a depth of 3 feet. The cellars of the Baltic fleet Hotel were flooded to a depth of 15 feet and water spilled on to the ground floor; two cottages next door were also flooded level with table tops.Pendle Hill: Walkers on the hill were caught in the storm and made their way with difficulty to the New Inn Barley.Nelson: It was said to be the worst storm in 21 years. Extensive damage was done in Railway Street and Hibson road areas. Basements of mills and houses were flooded some to a depth of 3 feet. The cellar of Elliott Printers was flooded to a depth of 8 feet and the stock ruined. The Engineers Arms in Sagar street was flooded with barrels of beer floating about. Houses were struck by lightning and damaged. Flooding occurred at the Lomeshaye Mill and also in the Valley Mills area. Many houses in the low lying areas of Barrowford were also flooded and the crick ground at Seedhill was covered.Colne: A house was struck by lightning and damaged. Mills in North Valley and Waterside were flooded but the worst experience was at Vivary Bridge Mill and Greenfield Mil. The Market hall was also flooded.Barnoldswick: Ouseldale Foundry was struck by lightning and demolished and other houses were struck and damaged. Much damage was done by flooding from becks which supply the cotton mills. Water poured into the weaving shed at Clough Mill and people had to be rescued. Most of the town’s 4000 cotton workers are out of work. Shops near Butts Beck were flooded and furniture smashed and carried into the streets. Sheep cattle and pigs were drowned.Blackpool: there was flooding in Milton Street up to a depth of 1 foot.Lancaster: Shops in Lower Church Street were flooded to a depth of several inchesNew Mills (Derbyshire): A woman was killed by lightning |
| **12 Aug 1932****Lancs Evg post 12 Aug** | Thunderstorm following 3 days of intense heat affecting London E Anglia Scotland and elsewhere | Northwest information is about the intense heat and people sleeping out in their gardens! |
| **20 May 1933****BR** | West Kirby 0.24 in 5 m |  |
| **8 Jun 1933****Lancs Evg post 9 Jun** | Thunderstorm following a heatwave with temperature around 85F every day for a week | Bleasdale(Between Preston and Lancaster): A great volume of water came down the River Brock like a tidal wave and bathers at Brock bridge managed to escape only in the nick of time. ‘The river was at a low level and a group of children were paddling about on the concrete bed above the fall which was carrying about 2 or 3 inches of water. Other parts of the bed were dry and on these picknickers had established themselves. Rumbling in the distance was persistent thunder but this was too far away to anticipate any interference. A woman upstream was seen to be waving excitedly and at the same time they caught sight of the river, a few seconds ago placid and serene, now a high wall of frothing water racing down with such force that the banks were unable to confine it. The party had a wild scramble to get away from the river bed before the swelling volume of water descended on them. Two boys were fortunate to get hold of a tree branch and drag themselves clear just as the torrent reached them. Possessions including a purse and camera were lost in the rush’.River Brock (tributary of River Wyre) SD553443Burnley: There was no flooding but two houses were damaged by lightning.Garstang: A mare was killed by lightning.Calder Vale: Hailstones the size of large marbles fell and much damage was done to orchards and growing crops.Manchester: Lightning disrupted tram services. The deluge flooded many parts of the city to 18 inches, holding up trafficBentham, Arnside, Silverdale: A thunderstorm was also reported but no details of damage given |
| **20 Jun 1933****Lancs Evg Post 21 Jun****BR** | ThunderstormLitherland Hatton Hill Pk 1.20 in 30 mBirkenhead Bidston 0.79 in 30 m | Morecambe: Intense rainfall for nearly an hour flooded streets and cellars.Bootle (Merseyside): A youth was drowned whilst attempting to cycle through floods.Chorley: A house was struck by lightning and partially wrecked.BR notes that Mr. H. J. Bigelstone, the observer at Bidston Observatory, states that " the storm appears to have travelled from North Wales, passing over Birkenhead and Wallasey, and finally over Liverpool, in the Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth districts of which its greatest violence was reached." (See the Meteorological Magazine for 1933, pp. 131-4). |
| **7 Jul 1933****Lancs Evg Post 7 Jul** | ThunderstormWest Kirby 0.60 in 15 m | Blackpool: Two balls of fire were seen and people were thrown off their feet but the storm only lasted half an hour and no flooding was reported.Southport, Banks: A house was struck by lightning and damaged.Preston, Ashton: Fifty houses were flooded some to more than one foot. The greatest problem was near the foot of Tulketh Road where water rushed down the steep part of the street. In Beverley Street the water was a foot deep in houses in less than a quarter of an hour. There was a miniature lake near the Grand Junction Hotel and some nearby houses were flooded. The storm began with a whirlwind which removed a pile of sand in a side street and swept along Fishergate rendering observation difficult.Leyland: the storm was accompanied by a heavy fall of hailstones. Lightning struck and damaged a house.Great Harwood: A downpour turned the streets into rivers for a short time (the storm followed shortly after an earthquake of sufficient strength to send people out into the streets).Fleetwood: Over a dozen streets and back streets were flooded to a depth of several feet. Warrenhurst road was worst affected with water several feet deep in gardens and up to the doorsteps of houses. Other flooded streets were, Milton Street, Ash Street, Blackiston Street, Park Avenue, Birch Street, Oak Street and Belmont Road. In Poulton Road the water was so deep that traffic had to be diverted and a portion of Lord Street was flooded. Buildings were struck and damaged by lightning. Cellars in Hesketh Street were flooded to a few inches and stalls in the Market Place suffered damage.Lancaster: The fall of lumps of ice as big as a man’s fist was the principal feature of the storm at Lancaster. They broke car windows and house windows and splintered in the roadway. The gutters were soon flooded with rain water. The County court was adjourned when the noise of hail drowned speech and then windows were broken by the hailMorecambe: Hailstones as big as marbles broke several windows and hundreds of basements were flooded. |
| **20 Sep 1933****Burnley Express 23 sep** | Thunderstorm following a severe drought | Burnley: Houses were struck and damaged by lightning.Colne: Hailstones soon covered the ground and several streets were flooded including several houses in the Windy Bank and Waterside Districts. Vivary Bridge Mill was flooded.Barnoldswick: A boy was struck by lightning whilst cycling but did not sustain serious injuries. Houses in the lower part of the town at Bankfield Crow Nest and Wellhouse Mills were flooded. Worsthorne: There were several cases of flooding in the village. |
| **26 Jun 1934 Yorkshire Post 27 Jun** |  | Macclesfield: At nearby Rainow heavy rain caused much damage to roads and property. The road from Macclesfield to Whaby was impassable because of boulders washed from the hillsides. Hundreds of poultry were drowned. At Bollington houses were flooded to several feet and the River Dene rose 8 feet in less than an hour. |
| **23 Apr 1935****Lancs Evg Post 24 Apr** | thunderstorm | Darwen: Two adjoining houses were struck by lightning and caused serious damage. Heavy rain was reported but no flooding. |
| **14 Jun 1935****Lancs Evg Post 15 Jun** | ThunderstormRainfall figures in LEP were generally around 0.50 inches. | Bootle: Floods occurred in Hawthorne Road for the first time in nearly 30 years.Longton: A man was knocked unconscious by lightning.The storm was reported in Liverpool, Preston, Longridge with lightning effects but no flooding reported. |
| **22/23 Jun 1935****Lancs Evg post 24 Jun** | Widespread thunderstorms esp in Glasgow area but not so much in Lancs. Following a heatwave | Lancaster: It caught the fringe of the storm. The storm battered plants and gardens and excited tourists but caused no flooding. Thunderstorms were also reported in other parts of North Lancashire but no flooding was reported. |
| **17 Jul 1935****BR** | Liverpool Monument Place 1.00 in 60 m |  |
| **22 Sep 1935****Lancs Evg Post 23 Sep****BR** | ThunderstormPreston daily rainfall 1.75 inches but 1.35 in a short period (unspecified)Manchester Barton 0.20 in 5 m | Preston: The storm caused extensive flooding in the low lying parts of town. A culvert carrying the Moor Brook burst in Tulketh Road, breaking up the roadway, flooding houses and entering the Public Hall cellars. The burst water spouted as high as the first floor windows. Setts from the roadway were thrown 30 yards. The worst effects of the flood were in the Watery Lane district where 40 houses were flooded to a depth of 1 to 2 feet. The water was 3 feet deep on Liverpool Road. Beverley Street and Trevor Street were also flooded.Longridge: The golf club clubhouse was flooded to a depth of 1 foot to 18 inches. Ormskirk: there was flooding at Wigan Road and Aughton Street. Near Brookacre bridge on Aughton Street some houses were flooded to a depth of 9 inches.Southport: LEP 25 Sep shows a picture of road flooding at Lord Street, Southport.Croston: The Methodist school was severely damaged by lightning. |
| **24 Sep 1935****Lancs Evg post 25 Sep** | Thunderstorms | Rochdale: the railway between Rochdale and Bacup was stopped by a landslide and the line from Lancs to Yorks was flooded in the tunnel at Summit.Bacup: many houses and some factories were flooded.Littleborough: A great part of the town was under water to a depth of 2 to 3 feet.Ramsbottom: the River Irwell reached its greatest height ‘within living memory’ and overflowed at several points in the Rossendale Valley. At Stubbins the road was flooded to a depth of 4 to 5 feet. At Shuttleworth a row of 12 houses was flooded for the second time in three days and a large part of Shuttleworth Paper Mill and offices was flooded. |
| **5 Jan 1936****BR** | Rydal (High Close) 2.6Grasmere (Huntingstile) 2.69New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel 4Kentmere Head Reservoir 2.67 | Flooding occurred in the north of England including the Mersey, Irk, Irwell and Conway. No reference in BR to rainfall totals for S Lancs. |
| **21 Jun 1936****BR** | Knutsford 0.88 in 25 mDaily rainfalls on 22nd Oldham (Brushes Clough).. 2-69 Garstang (Barnacre Res.) 2-63New Hey (Sewage Works) 2-87  |  |
| **3 Jul 1936****Burnley Express****4 Jul****Greater Manchester SFRA**  |  | Nelson: Cellars in some houses in Gisburn Road were flooded as was also a shop on Railway Street near the railway bridge. The subway landing from Hibson Road to the station was flooded to a depth of 1 foot.Bolton: the canal breached at Nob End and flooded a paper mill and at Little Lever. |
| **10 Aug 1936****BR** | Leyland Worden Hall (S of Preston) 1.97 in 95 m (1.50 in 1 h) |  |
| **3 Sep 1936****BR** | Eccles 0.88 in 12 mWirswall Hall 1.48 in 60 m |  |
| **13 Dec 1936****BR** |  | Lancaster was isolated from the south for the greater part of 14th with rail communication cut off from Preston. Extensive heavy rainfall also occurred in Wales and caused flooding on the River Usk and in N Wales. |
| **12 Aug 1937****Lancs Evg Post 13 Aug****BR** |  | Blackpool: There were miniature lakes in the streets and manhole covers forced off. However there was no flooding of property. Buildings were struck by lightning and damaged. |
| **13 Aug 1937****BR** | Stonyhurst College 0.80 in 30 m |  |
| **14 Aug 1937****BR****Liverpool Evg Express (from BR)** | Liverpool Monument Place 0.85 in 15 m | "The rainfall in Liverpool was the most abnormal for more than 20 years, according to Corporation official records. Between 22h. last night and 9h. this morning, 1.39 inch of rain fell. After slight flooding in the Bootle, Litherland and Seaforth area yesterday afternoon, further serious flooding occurred shortly before midnight, and barely had the residents left their homes when a cloudburst at 2h. today caused the worst flooding yet experienced. There was 8 feet of water in Akenside Street, Bootle, and several houses were flooded. There were reports that several houses were struck during the storm, but no serious damage occurred. Lightning struck the chimney-stack at the home of Mrs. Mary Lynch, in Marsh Lane, and a number of bricks were dislodged. Passengers were unable to enter Seaforth railway station until the railway company placed seats in the flood water to enable them to reach the entrance." |
| **30 Aug 1937****Lancs Evg Post 31 Aug****BR** | Manchester Oldham Rd 0.87 in 30 m | Blackburn: The storm lasted nearly 2 hours. Houses were inundated in many low lying parts of town. The water under the bridge in Galligreaves Street was between 5 and 6 feet deep. The traffic island in Brownhill was completely submerged and the cellars were flooded in a neighbouring hotel. Houses on the Wilpshire of the traffic island were flooded with water bursting through the back doors. In Primrose Terrace houses between number 2 and 26 and a Coop shop were flooded to a depth of 7 to 10 inches, leaving three inches of mud and slime. Houses in Bower Street were also flooded. The setts on Bolton Road at the junction with Longshaw Street were forced up and flags on the footpath displaced.Whalley: New Road residents escaped as the water just reached the steps of their houses. In the Waterfall district the weaving shed of the Primrose Mill was flooded to a depth of several inches. |
| **31 May 1938****The Times 31 May 1938** |  | Liverpool: At Litherland some homes were flooded to the window sills and residents remained upstairs after heavy rain coincided with a high tide on the River Mersey |
| **5 Aug 1938****Lancs Evg post 5 Aug****BR** | Thunderstorm with houses struck in Barrowford, Rochdale and MossleyFrodsham Castle Pk Cheshire 1.10 in 60 m | Rochdale: lightning caused fires at two mills.Nelson: Carr Road was flooded to a depth of 8 inches and manhole covers were lifted off. |
| **6 Aug 1938****Lancs Evg Post 6 Aug****BR** | ThunderstormKirkby 1.61 in 2 hLiverpool Monument Pl 1.14 in 20 m | Merseyside: The area experienced the worst thunderstorm ‘in living memory’. Included in the effects were, the flooding of part of the new Queensway tunnel (3 inches of water for 100 yards), a Congregational church in Garston Old Road struck by lightning, a rail line flooded and blocked by landslide and people marooned in their houses. In Irving Street, Litherland, water reached a depth of 5 to 6 feet and surged through the houses. Houses were struck and seriously damaged by lightning.Southport: Houses were struck by lightning.BR reports that of the two falls in Lancashire that at Liverpool ranks as "remarkable." The City Engineer reports that 1.14 inch fell between 6h. and 6h. 24m. Mr. J. Whiteby, of Broadway (BucklandManor) reports that 1.77 inch occurred between Ih. and 3h. during a violent thunderstorm accompanied by hailstones of unusual size. |
| **8 Aug 1938****Lancs Evg Post 8 Aug** | ThunderstormBlackpool 0.48 inch within 20 minutes | Blackpool: Some streets were flooded.Lytham St Annes: Several streets were flooded inches deep. |
| **9 Aug 1938****BR****The Times 10 Aug** | St Helens Windle Hall 1.66 in 80 mWallasey New Brighton 1.80 in 105 m (0.81 in 30 m)Temperatures reached 79F locally | Rainfall at Wallasey, St. Helen's, ranks as "remarkable." At Wallasey 1.80 inch fell between 14h. 25m. and 16h. 10m., of which 0.81 inch fell in the last 30 minutes. Mr. W. H. Pilkington, of Windle Hall, St. Helen's, reports that 1.66 inch fell in 80 minutes from 16h. 50m. to 18h. 10m. mainly between 17h. and 17h. 30m. |
| **12 Aug 1938****Lancs Evg Post 12 Aug****BR****The Times 13 Aug 1938** | Widespread thunderstormsClitheroe 1.37 inches in one hourPreston 1.15 inches in one hourChatburn House 1.15 in 45 mHutton Hort Stn 1.15 in 60 mTimes notes storm extended from Bacup to Macclesfield | Macclesfield: A silk mill at Macclesfield was struck, set alight and completely gutted.Manchester: Many streets were flooded up to 3 feet deep severely restricting traffic movement. Water poured through the roof of Victoria Station and flooded the bookstall. Macclesfield: A silk factory was struck by lightning and burnt out in a short time.Bacup: Greenend Fibre Mill was struck and partly destroyed by fire. Another mill was so badly flooded that the workforce was sent home.Walsden: the rail line was flooded and traffic held up.Bolton: the Bolton Wanderers ground at Burnden Park was flooded.Preston: two cows were killed by lightning.Clitheroe: Holmes Mill was flooded to 4 inches. In North Street, Bawdlands and Whalley road housewives struggled to keep water from their houses. There was a pool four feet deep under the Waddington Road railway bridge. Water swept from side streets into Waterloo Road and the cellar of the Royal Oak Hotel was flooded. The Oddfellows Arms at Wellgate was flooded. Sheep and lambs were killed at GrindletonMorecambe: A woman was struck and injured.Preston: Flooding occurred between Addison Road and Lytham Road in the vicinity of the cattle market. A shop was flooded to a few inches. Surrounding areas were little affected. |
| **16 Jul 1939** | Hartford Hollybank Cheshire 0.97 in 40 mKnutsford 1.70 in 70 m | BR reports that at Knutsford the storm was local. Flooding occurred and lightning caused some damage in the district. At Hartford, in the same county, 0.97 inch fell in 40 minutes, commencing at 15h. 5m., the roads soon became flooded. The thundery conditions continued at Hartford until the 24th, half-an-inch occurring on the 19th, 20th and 21st.  |
| **21 Aug 1939****Lancs Evg Post 21 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Blackpool: Rain continued for 2 hours and in the main streets the water was several inches deep.Lytham: The station was flooded |
| **14 Jul 1940****BR** | Northwich Sandiway WW 1.20 in 15 mCuddington Cheshire 1.16 in 15 mNorthwich 1.11 in 35 m |  |
| **16 Sep 1940****BR** |  | BR notes several daily totals at Slaidburn over 3 inches but notes that elsewhere the rainfall was mainly orographic and prolonged. |
| **22 Jun 1941****BR** | Buxton Goytshead 1.63 in 90 mRainow the Clough 1.82 in 90 mDisley Cheshire 2.55 in 2 h | A breech was caused in the Peak Forest Canal bank due to a culvert becoming surcharged, and considerable damage occurred at Waterside Mill, Disley. At Kinder Filters, 2.26 inches occurred in four hours beginning at 14h., while between 14h. 45m. and 17h. 15m., 3.14 inches fell at Romiley, 8½ miles south-east of Manchester. Here there were occasional heavy bursts of hail and frequent lightning flashes. |
| **12 Jul 1941****BR** | Southport Gosforth Rd 1.83 in 35 mSouthport Hesketh Pk 1.09 in 15 mThere was an associated gale |  |
| **2 Aug 1942****BR** | No heavy rainfall in short period. | At Manchester, 2.32 inches was recorded in the 12 hours commencing at 21h. on the 2nd. |
| **5 Jul 1943****BR**  | West Kirby St Andrews Cheshire 1.28 in 90 m |  |
| **29 May 1944****BR****Daily Mail 9 Jun 1944****Birmingham Daily Post 9 Jun 1944** | Hayfield Kinder filters Derbyshire 2.55 in 73 mArnfield Resver Cheshire 1.16 in 73 mWoodhead resvr Cheshire 1.94 in 2 h | On the 29th rain of abnormal intensity fell over the southern Pennines from between Stockport and Glossop in the west to Sheffield in the east, especially in the neighbourhood of Holmfirth. "Very rare " falls for the region of greatest severity are not included in the Table on account of the lack of sufficiently accurate details. In some Sheffield suburbs there were heavy falls of hail. At Fulwood, near Weston Park, Mr. J. W. Baggaley reported hailstones mainly of clear ice ½ to 1 inch in diameter and of irregular shape.On the 29th and 30th a shallow depression over France extended northwards and was associated with widespread thunderstorms, accompanied locally by heavy rain and hail. Mr. J. P. Beveridge estimated that about 2 inches fell between 15h. and 16h. in the Digby Valley and there was considerable damage to property from flooding.The storm affected Holmfirth, Meltham (Yorks) and Glossop (NW). The Glossop Brook quickly swelled 20 feet above its normal level in a few minutes, rushing into the ground floors of more than 300 houses, breaking down doors and in some cases wallsGlossop Brook at Victoria Street bridge SK034939<Glossop>: Every part of the town was flooded with estimated costs of over £100,000. A man fell into a stream and was drowned when a small bridge collapsed. In just over 2 hours between 5 and 6 inches of rain fell. At the Victoria street bridge the water rose 30 feet from the brook course and flooded part of the main shopping street to a depth of 4 feet. |
| **30 May 1944****BR** | Darwen Bold Venture Pk 1.51 in 2 h | At Leyland, Lancashire, there was heavy hail, some stones measuring 3 ¾ inches in circumference. |
| **23 Aug 1944****BR** | Southport 0.93 in 50 m |  |
| **9 Jul 1945****BR** |  | On the 9th, 0.70 inch fell in 40 minutes at Hesketh Park, Southport, causing heavy flooding. On this day 0.62 in. of rain fell at Preston in 20 minutes beginning 17h. 15m. |
| **15 Jul 1945****Lancs Evg Post 16 Jul****BR** | ThunderstormClitheroe 0.90 inch in 10 minutesBurnley 0.50 inches in 15 minutesBurnley temperature 78FWest Kirby St Andrews Vic 0.93 in 15 mNeston Cheshire 1.65 in 20 m | Clitheroe: Drains were surcharged and manhole covers were blown off and fountains spurted from road and footpath. Wellgate was like a river with a big lagoon under Waddington Road railway bridge. Water flowed into houses in Bawdlands, Whalley Road, Railway View, and Kirkmoor road with heavy damage to furniture.A trail of mud was left.Burnley: A manhole cover was blown off and the roadway at Manchester road and Rosehill Road was flooded. No flooding of property was reported.Blackburn: The storm lasted half an hour and was accompanied by hailstones of exceptional size. Roads were flooded but there was no reference to property. However, in great Horwood the Wellington Hotel on Queen Street was flooded and properties were flooded in Spring Street, Rishton.Accrington: Hail bigger than mothballs fell in the Spring Garden District. Rivulets poured down the steep slopes in Spring Hill and the Grange Lane districts. Several houses and a shop were flooded in Frederick Street to knee depth. Manhole covers were blown off at a number of points and the macadam surface at Willows Lane was disrupted. |
| **16 Jul 1945****BR** | West Kirby St Andrews Vic 0.55 in 10 m |  |
| **29 Aug 1945****Lancs Evg Post 29 Aug****BR****Manchester Guardian 30 Aug** | ThunderstormDaily totalsRochdale (Springmill) 2.90 Rochdale (Cowm Whitworth) 3.45 Bacup (Sheephouse Reservoir) 2.88 Bacup (L.M.S. Railway) 2.84 | Preston: Minor flooding occurred and a house was struck and damaged by lightning.Chorley: Lightning struck several houses.Manchester daily rainfall was 1.25 ins, the highest since 2 Aug 1942 when 2.71 ins fell. Drains were unable to cope and flooded the basements of houses in Ladybarn Road. Floods drove occupants from their homes in the Swinton area. The Bury to Warrington Road was flooded at Patricroft Rail Station.Ardwick: Gorton Brook overflowed and caused severe flooding in Bennett Street with 400 yards of the street under water to a depth of 1 to 2 feet. (Householders complained that this was not an uncommon experience with water backing up from a culvert).  |
| **8 Feb 1946****Cheshire county Publ Feb 11 1998** | Not a thunderstorm The article refers back to floods of the 1880’s but says 1946 flood was more severe – no date was given. | Winsford: Very severe flooding was reported. There had been unprecedented rainfall during January and into February when the equivalent of a month's rainfall fell in one day. A fortnight prior to the flood saw five inches of rain falling in the Weaver and Dane valleys and a further two inches on the Thursday and Friday of the week of the flood. The result was that the Weaver rose 11ft above its normal level. The sluices that controlled the river were opened 20 hours before the peak of the flood. The waters had reached the then town centre the Red Lion pub’s cellars were flooded as were those at the Oak and the Ark. The flood also reached a quarter of a mile along New Road and Weaver Street was also affected. The Magnet cinema was also flooded with all but the rear six rows of seats under water. By dusk, the depth of water on the roads was upwards of four feet. Small boats moored on the banks of Winsford Flash were torn from their moorings, carried downstream and smashed on the bridge. The main Post Office, next to Woolworths, was seriously damaged. Two of the Market Place pubs had water marks close by revealed that the flood had been four feet deep.Northwich: he Dane overflowed by noon on Friday, carrying trees and everything else before it. By 1pm, the flood reached High Street, Dane Street and London Road. The Weaver could not cope with the torrent pouring out from the Dane where they met and the town was flooded at Baron's Quay and Watling Street. |
| **12 Jun 1946****Burnley express 15 Jun** | thunderstorm | Burnley: There was minor flooding in the lower parts of the town.Nelson: A farm barn was struck by lightning and the contents destroyed. |
| **23 Jun 1946****BR** | Sale Carrington Lane 0.80 in 26 m |  |
| **26 Jul 1946****BR****Manchester Guardian 27 Jul** | Arnfield resvr Cheshire 1.67 in 2 hManchester Apr Ringway 2 ins Whitworth Pk 1.71 in 12 hr | BR notes that in the West riding of Yorkshire and also in the Manchester area flooding and damage were exceptionally severe.Manchester: Lightning damaged houses. The basement of St Catherine’s School on Collyhurst Road was flooded Stockport: Many cellars were flooded. The fire station cellar was flooded at Stretford. Cellars in Bredbur were also flooded. |
| **27 Jul 1946****Burnley express****31 Jul** | Thunderstorm | Nelson: Following local thunderstorms the fire brigade were engaged in pumping out water from underneath houses in Waids House Road where the water depth was said to have reached 10 feet. |
| **1 Sep 1946****BR** |  | BR reports that Heavy thunderstorms occurred in many parts of the country on September 1 and heavy rains caused flooding and dislocation of railway services in Lancashire and Yorkshire. |
| **Sep/Oct 1946****Manchester Evg News 27 Dec 2015, Manchester Evening News 20 Sep 1946, Lancashire Evening Post 20 Sep, Clitheroe Advertiser 27 Sep** | No information yet found on weather conditions.Persitent rainfall for 24 hours caused widespread and severe flooding in Lancashire and South Yorkshire. There were no reports of thunder or severe intensities.Chatburn School DR 2.15” | <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/looking-back-salford-floods-were-10656774> refers to floods in September and October but does not give dates. Residents of Lower Broughton Road had to wade through 3 feet of water to get to the shops. In those two months 5300 homes were flooded in Salford. The floods of Boxing Day 2015 were said to be the worst since this occasion. The website has 4 photographs of people wading through the floods.Wikipedia notes: ‘In 1946, there was serious flooding in Salford, caused by a bottleneck at a bend in the river at Strangeways, on the border with Manchester. Flooding had been a problem for hundreds of years,[ Hampson (1930), Book Four: 1800–1930, Chapter VI: "Peel Park and the Irwell Floods".] and, in 1946, the decision was made to straighten and widen the river to increase its capacity. Work started in 1951 but it was not until September 1970 that water first flowed through the Anaconda Cut’.<Eccles>: four families in cottages were marooned in their bedrooms when <<Worsley Brook>> burst its banks. Water in some houses was nearly 4 feet deep.<Leyland>: 20 families were marooned in upper rooms in the Chapel Brow district.<Blackburn>: In one house in the Burnley Road water reached nearly to the ceiling. Mills suspended operations. Severe flooding occurred in the King Street bridge area and people were rescued from their upstairs windows.<Middleton>: Thirty houses in the centre of the town were flooded. The <<River Irk>> burst its banks and mill work was suspended at two mills.<Whalley>: People marooned in upper floors were supplied fish and chips by police on ladders who later took people to the Assembly Rooms Rest Centre. They were Whalley’s worst floods in memory. The River <<Calder>> rose 15 feet and transformed fields into lakes. The water surged to the right into King Street and Lord John street. King Street was submerged from the bridge to the Post Office a distance of 80 yards. Over 60 houses were flooded in King street in most cases to a dpth of 2 to 3feet. Other areas flooded included the Abbey Cornmill ground floor |
| **14 May 1947****Manchester Guardian 15 May** | Thunderstorms | <Southport>: 0.27 inch rain fell in 15 minutes. Lord Street was flooded and bus traffic diverted. A house was damaged by lightning. Thunderstorms and high winds were also reported at Blackpool and Morecambe. |
| **30 May 1947****Lancs Evg Post 30 May** | Thunderstorm | <Blackpool>: A house was damaged by lightning.<Blackburn>: The town experienced a short thunderstorm and the fire service were called to pump water from various premises |
| **14 Jul 1947****BR** |  | BR reports that in <Manchester>, main-line railway services were held up through floods. The Manchester Evening News reported that at Wilbraham Road Station the flood-water "first crept along the side of the track then swept down in one big wave, lapping just below the edge of the platform." |
| **16 Jul 1947****BR** | Rochdale Roch Mills STW 1.05 in 20 m |  |
| **16 Sep 1947****Lancs Evg post 16 Sep** | Thunderstorm following dry weatherPreston, Hutton 0.25 inches in 15 minutes | Because of the preceding drought no flooding was reported. |
| **11 Nov 1947****BR** | Coniston (Holywath) 3.4Hawes Junction (Moorland Cottage) 3.28Ambleside (Market Square) 3.36Rydal (High Close) 3.62 | Unsettled conditions with frequent heavy rains in northern and western districts characterised November 1947. On the 11th, which provides the longest lists of heavy falls for any day in 1947, more than 3 inches was recorded widely in the Pennines and the English Lake District. There was more than half-an-inch over most parts of central and southern Scotland, the Pennines and northern England. There was serious flooding in Wensleydale and other parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire.  |
| **31 Jul 1948****BR** | Denton Resvr 1.22 in 45 mGorton Resvr 1.16 in 45 mSouthport Hesketh Pk 1.67 in 35 m | BR reports that much damage by lightning and severe flooding over much of Lancashire and Yorkshire. At Southport the storm was described as of almost tropical fury; 1.68 inch of rain fell in 35 minutes and the Fire Brigade had to deal with more than 60 calls for assistance in relieving the flood. Banks, shops and cinemas were in some cases several feet under water and the famous Lord Street was awash from end to end. |
| **13 Jul 1949****Burnley Express 16 Jul****Manchester Guardian 14 Jul** | Thunderstorm after more than a month of dry weather and temperatures before the storm of 85F. The storm raged for over 2 hours. | <Burnley>: No damage reported here but the rain was welcomed.<Liverpool>: Two men had to swim to safety when their car was trapped in eight feet of water.<Warrington>: A main road caved in.<Chorley>: A cow was killed by lightning and another in Winsford Cheshire.<St Helens>: Extensive flooding occurred in low-lying parts of the town. The St Helens to Warrington main road subsided at Peasley Cross where the road was flooded to a depth of several feet.<Southport>: Roads were flooded and wooden paving blocks forced up in the main street in a storm lasting 4 hours.<Liverpool>: At Queens Drive Mossley Hill flood water forced up a manhole cover and flooded a roadway to a depth of 8 feet; a car was abandoned and its occupants had to swim and wade to safety.<Wigan>: Rows of cottages on Gorman Street, Beresford Street and Bull Hey were flooded to a depth of 3 feet. A hotel was also flooded.<Northwich>,< Weaverham>: A church was struck and a stone cross was knocked off into the churchyard. |
| **2 Aug 1949****Burnley Express 3 Aug** | Thunderstorm | Padiham: There was flooding at Britannia Mill and work discontinued in the weaving shed.Burnley: Water forced up the surface of Brunshaw Road when the drains were unable to cope with the heavy downpour. |
| **24 Sep 1949****BR** | Rawenstall Green fold Resvr 0.48 in 5 m (2.58 in day on 23rd ) |  |
| **21/22 Aug 1950****Burnley express 23 Aug****BR****Lancs Evg Post****21 Aug** | ThunderstormRainfall at Preston over 7 days was 5 inches with 1.11 inches on 18th and 1.55 inches on 20th.Prolonged rain was followed by a more intense burst and what was described as a cloudburst on Pendle Hill and Wiswell Moor. | Burnley: two houses were struck by lightning. In spite of heavy downpours there were no reports of flooding in Burnley or Padiham.BR notes that the Waterworks Engineer, Preston, reported that the intense rain at Langdon Brook on the 20th produced no damage, but the more intense rain of the 22nd was destructive. Heavy concrete coping blocks weighing at least 2 cwt. each were stripped from the main flood weir over a length of 30 yards and carried 50 yards downstream. The peak flow in the first storm was 270 cubic feet per second and 465 cubic feet per second in the second storm from an area of 3,800 acres.Preston: After being undisturbed for 3 years Preston’s notorious flood spot at the foot of Tulketh Road suffered again. Nearly 50 houses in Tulketh road, Beverley Street, Travers Street and Hull Street were flooded up to 2 feet deep. Water rose so quickly that little precaution could be taken. (LEP has photos of Tulketh Road and of Strand Road where part of the roadway was forced up). Flooding occurred in Church Street where the milk bar was 2 feet under water. There was lightning damage to buildings. The basement of St Vincent’s Home in Fulwood was flooded.Goosnargh: Bushells Arms had 5 feet of water in the cellars.Blackburn to Clitheroe rail line was blocked by a landslide and the Blackburn to Clitheroe road was stopped by floods at Billington where houses were flooded in the Old Road side.Whalley: The main street was converted to a river and King Street houses were flooded to a depth of 1 foot. The village gas supply was cut.On the lower slopes of Pendle Hill, water entered farmhouses and cottages and brought much debris on to the roads.Blackburn: An official noted that ‘the flood in 1946 was worse but yesterday’s developed more quickly’. Scores of houses were flooded. The River Blakewater rose to within an inch of King Street Bridge and flooded the basement of the Phoenix Mill. The cellars of Broomhill Hotel were flooded to the ceiling.Darwen: The Unity Mill in Lower Darwen had its worst ever flooding, entering the entire works, including the lower part of the engine works to a depth of 10 feet, putting out the boiler fires. The town was flooded from Lynwood Avenue to the Golden Cup Hotel where cellars were flooded to 5 feet deep.Adlington (in the Chorley area): Houses were flooded in south Street to 2 feet and in Babylon Lane. In the cellars under the Elephant and Castle the water was 3 feet deep. The Gerard Weaving Sheds were flooded.Brinscall: Houses in School Lane and Railway Road were flooded to 1 foot depth. Well Lane road surface was stripped. |
| **22/23 Aug 1950****BR****The Times 25 Aug****Lancs Evg Post****23 Aug** | Thunderstorms intense but of short durationRawenstall 1.70 in 30 m | Padiham: Flood water under the foundations of a cloth mill caused the collapse of the roof and damage to machinery. Several Lancashire mills were flooded. The Rivers Brun and Calder overflowed.A boy was drowned in Chatburn Stream [Where?].Dunsop Bridge: The flood was said to be the worst in more than 50 years. Sheep, a caravan, hen coops and farm machinery were washed away. All the bridges in a 4 mile length of river from Dunsop to Brennand and Whittendale were washed away and stretches of the road disappeared. A water main was washed away and the village supply stopped. In the vicinity the Blackburn waterworks level was 3 feet higher than in the previous serious flood in December 1936. A farmer from Dunsop Bridge had 9 sheep washed away.Brock: The River Brock overflowed and 4 houses in Parlick Terrace behind Brock Railway Station were flooded to a depth of 3 feet. The Preston to Lancaster canal came over the bank near Brock Viaduct flooding fields and the Barnacre Weaving Shed at Calder Vale to a depth of 4 inches.Penwortham: The Leyland Road was inundated.Preston: Houses in Tulketh Road and Strand Road suffered again.Preesall: Two milk cows were killed by lightning |
| **28/29 Aug 1950****BR****Manchester Guardian 30 Aug****Lancs Evg Post 28 Aug** | Squires Gate Blackpool Apt 1.22 in 95 m 1.42 ins in 3 hrs; 1.77 in 24 hrs)Southport 1.22 insFleetwood 1.11 insWallasey 1.11 ins | Lytham St Annes: A thunderstorm caused flooding affecting 23 hotels where the water rose up to 4 feet mainly on the front. In four hours 1.51 inches of rain fell. At Lindrum Hotel a new ballroom floor was ruined. Grand Hotel was also flooded. ‘Water came running through the windows like a tidal wave’. Fleetwood: Warrenhurst Road was flooded to a depth of 2 feet – for the second time in 2 years..Southport: Streets were flooded including parts of Lord Street to 2 feet and also between Duke Street and Coronation Walk.Blackpool: Flooding occurred at Devonshire Square where manhole covers were lifted.Preston escaped flooding. |
| **6 Sep 1950****Lancs Evg Post 7 Sep** |  | Preston: Houses and roads in the outskirts were flooded up to 2 feet.Catterall (nr Garstang): A cottage was flooded to 2 feet in Sheeley Road and under the rail bridge was 2 feet 9 inches. |
| **9 Aug 1951****BR****Manchester Guardian 10 Aug** | ThunderstormSt Helens Eccleston Hill 1.28 in 75 mRainford Rookery STW 1.38 in 105 m | St Helens: The road to Warrington was flooded at Peasley Cross. |
| **21 Apr 1952****BR** | Southport Bedford Rd 0.73 in 20 m | A brief storm that flooded parts of Southport |
| **18 May 1952****The Times 19 May** | Temperature at Manchester was 80 F and thunder was reported though with little rain |  |
| **1 Jul 1952****BR****Daily Mail 2 Jul** **Manchester Guardian 2 Jul** | Bredbury Cheshire 1.73 in 25 mRomiley The Greave 1.50 in 30 mArnfield Resvr Cheshire 1.03 in 13 mRingway Manchester Apt 1.04 in 45 m | At the end of a heatwave thunderstorms occurred in various parts of the country.Manchester: A 45 minute storm over Manchester and parts of Cheshire and Derbyshire caught workers unaware on the way home. Temperatures reached over 90F in the London area. Houses were struck by lightning at Chorlton.The heaviest rain was in Stockport where as in Hyde and a few places in South Manchester many cellars and ground floor rooms were flooded. Motorists in the Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle and Gatley areas were held up by road flooding to a depth of 2 feet. Hempshaw Lane in Stockport had a brewery and 5 cottages under a foot of water.Glossop: A power failure affected 6000 houses. |
| **7 Aug 1952****BR****Eden (2008)** | Rawenstall 1.08 in 40 mSlaidburn 105 mm |  |
| **15 Aug 1952** **BR** | Blackburn Witton 1.19 in 2 h |  |
| **25 May 1953****Burnley Express 27 May****BR****The Times 26 May****Lancs Evg News 25 May** | Thunderstorm following high temperatures 82.6F in Burnley falling to 58.6 F after the stormTemperatures reached 89F in the southeast. | Burnley: Hollins farm at Brunshaw Top was flooded. Also slightly flooded was the cafe at Queens Park and the road to Padihams Reservoir and Rattan Clough Sabden was under water. Half an inch fell in 30 mins.The heavy falls of May were confined to the 25th and 26th. They occurred in severe thunderstorms associated with a cold front accompanying a small depression which moved eastward across Scotland.Blackburn: Several streets were flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Houses were flooded in Appleby Street and Derwent Street and lapped at the doorsteps in Brecon Road and Devon Road.The storm also affected Blackpool, Morecambe, Fleetwood and Southport but there were no reports of flooding. Three houses were struck by lightning in Fleetwood; the temperature there fell from 79.3F to 57.1 following 3 hours of storm.Blackpool: 0.4 inches of rain fell in15 minutes but no flooding was reported.St Annes: A wine cellar in a hotel was flooded. |
| **16 Jun 1953****Eden (2008)****Lancs Evg News** | Sedbergh 106 mm | Thunderstorms caused flooding in Sedbergh and further downstream in the Lune Valley.LEN has no reference to rain or flooding. |
| **26 Jun 1953****BR****The Times 27 Jun****Eden (2008)****Lancs Evg News 27 Jun** | Severe thunderstorms were reported at Eskdalemuir, Cumbria and W Yorkshire.Nelson Walton Lane 1.72 in 15 mLangley Trentabank Cheshire 2.09 in 39 mRochdale Queensway 1.32 in 45 mCrookburn 84.1 mmNote: Fish were found dead in the Ribble below the Calder confluence with disgorged poison | BR reports that At Nelson great damage was done to mill property. The Nelson Leader reported "the most northerly mill off Hallam Road caught the full weight of the water . . . and the cellar was quickly flooded to a depth of over ten feet. Water poured through windows broken under the strain and about a hundred cases of weft and warps were submerged." The "very rare" fall at Walton Lane was the heaviest recorded in 20 minutes or less in Lancashire.A wooden railway station at Bott Lane Halt floated in 10 feet of water after a 15 minute storm at Nelson. Sewers collapsed in three roads. A fallen wall blocked another road. The main Leeds road was flooded when a mill lodge overflowed.Hundreds of homes were flooded in Nelson. More than a score of people were evacuated from Bradley View where a row of houses was undermined. Floors and internal walls collapsed when a mill bridge near the row overflowed. Houses in Hemdon, Hallam and Hilldrop Roads and Hey Street were flooded. Hundreds of households opened doors to let water run through. An inch of rain fell in 15 minutes.Burnley: The storm lasted 30 minutes ut no effects were noted. |
| **12 May 1954****BR****Lancs Evg post 13 May** |  | Snake Pass: The road over the pass from Manchester to Sheffield was hit by a cloudburst washing silt and mud off fields. Farm houses and cottages were flooded. Livestock were removed to safety as floodwaters rushed down hillsides. |
| **16/20 Jul 1954****JBA Ribble report** |  | Intense thunderstorms affected mainly urban areas.18 July - the central area of Burnley was completely awash in some places to 2-3 feet deep; washed into shops and offices. In Accrington, some houses flooded to 12 feet.20 July Torrential rain in the Waterfall district of Blackburn where there was the worst flooding for 20 years (since 1936?). Many houses were flooded. A woman was swept off her feet in Princess St and carried for 50 yards. In Darwen, the Stakes Hall hotel had its wine cellar flooded. Spring Bank Terrace was flooded.Headline - Storms Lay Off Burnley Mills - Water nearly 4 feet deep covered a cotton firm’s shed. Also affected were furniture shops in the town centre including Marshalls in St James Street Healy Road and Osbornia factories affected. |
| **21 Aug 1954** **BR****Lancs Evg Post 21 Aug** | Sale Carrington Lane Cheshire 0.72 in 23 mSevere flooding at Mythomroyd (See S Yorkshire Chronology) | Preston: There were reports of flooding from the Serpentine.Burnley: At nearby Mereclough a culvert collapsed resulting in road flooding to a depth of 1 foot. |
| **10 Sep 1954****BR****Lancs Evg Post 11 Sep** | Morecambe 1.26 in 2 h | Only two falls were noted in September, one at Morecambe on the 10th apparently associated with intense cyclonic rain rather than thunderstorms. In Morecambe and Heysham streets were flooded so deeply that traffic was stopped.Morecambe: A deluge blocked the shopping centre. Gardens were flooded in the vicinity of Marine road, Queen’s Square Morecambe Street and Thornton Road. LEP has a photo of flooding at the junction of Euston road and Moss Lane.Grange over Sands: Shops were flooded and heavy manhole covers were lifed on Kent Bank Road. |
| **3 Oct 1954****BR** |  | Thunderstorms were frequent in October and a particularly severe one occurred in northwest England on the evening of the 3rd. A landslide brought about by heavy rainfall occurred on the railway between Liverpool and Manchester. Houses were struck by lightning and badly damaged in Stretford and Blackpool, and flooding occurred in many places. |
| **12 Jul 1955****BR** | Congleton Cheshire 1.20 in 30 m | <Congleton>: A half hour storm flooded basements and cellars.BR notes that this was the only noteworthy short period record in 1955. |
| **17 Jul 1956****BR** | Chorley Common Bank STW 0.92 in 45 m |  |
| **18 Jul 1956****BR** | Birkenhead Bidston Obsy 0.59 in 10 mSquiresgate Blackpool Apt 1.57 in 50 m | During the fall at Bidston Observatory, Cheshire, two of the observers independently reported hailstones of an estimated diameter of at least half an inch.Little damage was done on the Blackpool airfield although the main entrance was temporarily flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Considerable damage was caused in nearby Blackpool, however, where many basements were flooded. |
| **27/28 Jul 1956****BR****Lancs Evg Post 28 Jul** | Colne Judge fields 0.86 in 20 mGalgate the storm lasted ¾ hour | At Galgate near Lancaster it was said to be the worst storm in 50 years. The A6 was flooded to a depth of 2 feet. Cellars of homes and shops were flooded. The village garage and a sweet shop were flooded to a depth of 1 foot. However the neighbouring River Conder did not flood.Manchester: A thunderstorm at 4.30 affected the Test Match. |
| **19 Aug 1956****The Times 20 Aug****Lancs Evg Post 20 Aug** | No mention of thunderstorms | Ormskirk: At Lathom over 200 acres of crop and meadow were flooded when the Ellerbrook broke its banks with a breach 18 feet wide. The Ellerbrook joins the River Douglas just downstream from the breach and the Douglas backed into the Ellerbrook adding to the flooding.Wallasey: At Moreton bungalows and flats were flooded. Water was 3 feet deep around three storey blocks of flats. The River Birket overflowed and swirled through the streets; more than 100 families were evacuated. Bungalows were also flooded at Meols.Two children were swept down the flooded River Ribble and one girl was drowned. |
| **3 Jul 1957****Lancs Evg post 3 Jul** | Severe storms spread north from France and affected mainly the south of UK | Preston: Lightning damaged 2 houses at Lea near Preston. |
| **7 Jun 1958****BR** |  | Bury: A heavy rainstorm on the evening of the 7th brought floods to the Manchester area. Streets in the Ardwick area were flooded to a depth of 3 ft., and trains were diverted because of floodwater, 4 ft. deep, on the track between Fallowfield and Wilbraham |
| **24 Jun 1958****BR****Lancs Evg post 24 Jun** |  | On the 24th flood damage occurred at Wrexham and Wigan.Longridge, Alston: Lightning shatters a house and blasts a village. There were no reports of flooding. |
| **2 Jul 1958****Lancs Evg Post** **2 Jul** | Widespread flooding from Essex to Shropshire and yorkshire | Southport: Cellars and basements were flooded including the Post Office, the Gaumont Cinema and boarding houses. Lord Street was flooded to a depth of 1 foot. Westcliffe Road, Birkdale was also seriously flooded. |
| **10 Aug 1958****BR** |  | Some of the worst flooding on the 10th occurred in the central lowlands of Scotland and in Blackpool. One of the most seriously affected areas was the Mere Road district of Blackpool; flood water was waist deep here soon after the commencement of the hour-long storm. The Cricket Club's ground was flooded in a matter of minutes, water pouring onto the pitch from the surrounding roads; it was still under water the next morning. |
| **20 Aug 1958****BR** | Speke Apt 1.15 in 1 h |  |
| **22 Aug 1958****BR****The Times 23 Aug****Lancs Evg post 22 Aug/23 Aug** | Bury STW 1.89 in 1 hRingway Manchester Apt 0.98 in 39 m | In the north-west of England, where storms reached their peak in the afternoon but continued into the evening, trains were diverted because sections of line were under water near Chester. Hundreds of buildings were flooded and houses struck by lightning during a violent storm over the Wirral. Families were marooned for more than an hour in at Granville Terrace Wallasey Village as water 3 feet deep swirled round their houses. There were two successive storms with hotels, shops and schools flooded. Cellars in the Head Post Office and Telephone Exchange a bank and 2 cinemas were flooded.Manchester Wythenshawe: Rain was mixed with hail. Of the many areas of Lancashire from which storm damage was reported, the Wythenshawe area of Manchester probably suffered most— a girl was drowned when a bridge across a swollen stream was dislodged by flood-water and families in Moor Road were evacuated where houses were flooded to a depth of 4 feet. At Manchester Airport, about 3 miles to the south of Wythenshawe, a "noteworthy" fall was recorded. At Trafford Park six factories were flooded. Trains were diverted due to blocked or flooded lines.Bacup, the River Irwell overflowed its banks and flooded houses and shops in the town centre.Preston: Two houses were struck by lightning and badly damaged.E and S Lancashire were hit by thunderstorms. Chorley: A hospital (Withnell Hospital had 10 feet of water in its boilerhourse) and public houses had to be pumped out. At Brunswick street under the railway the water was waist deep. Property was flooded in Water street, Blackburn Road, Wheelton and Withnell.Wigan: Boundary Street Ince flooded from an overflowing culvert. There was also flooding in Platt Street, Platt bridge. Houses were flooded in Hindley.Whittle le Woods, Waterhouse Green had 3 houses flooded from the river Lostock.Darwen: Houses shops and factories were flooded notably at Perserverance Mill Olive Lane. Sunnybank Paper works also had 5 feet of water in its boilerhouse.Power failures and telephone failures were widespread. |
| **10 May 1959****BR****Manchester Guardian 11 May** | Sale Cheshire 0.64 in 15 mBarrow STW 1.35 in 40 m | There was extensive flooding at Barrow-in-Furness, north Lancashire, on the 10th, after a "remarkable" fall during a storm reported to be unequalled in severity in 36 years of detailed records. Thunderstorms were unusually severe and lightning unusually frequent over much of north-west England; at Squires Gate, where lightning killed a number of cattle, it was reported to be the most frequent since May 1947. Liverpool: Streets were flooded and water stood several inches deep at the entrance to the Mersey Tunnel.Rochdale, Littleborough: Water 4 feet deep flooded 10 houses in Box Street; cars were marooned in floodwater on Hare Hill Road. |
| **11 May 1959****BR****Manchester Guardian 12 May****Lancs Evg Post 11 May** | The day produced both the hottest and wettest day of the yearBury STW 0.81 in 30 mRawenstall Green Fold Resvr 1.03 in 55 mNorthwich Marbur Rd 2.43 in 2 hTemperature reached 78F at Manchester | On the 11th "remarkable" falls were recorded at Northwich, Cheshire. At Blackley (NE Manchester), houses were flooded; some roads were a foot deep in water, while hailstones were reported to be as large as golf-balls. At Middlewich, a boy of 11 was killed by lightning while sheltering beneath a tree on the bank of the river Dane.Bury: A cellar was flooded at Buxton Street and several homes in Central and South Avenue at Warth were flooded. Hailstones fell at Eccles and Tottington near Bury.Warrington: Streets were flooded to a depth of 1 foot. There was also flooding at Winnick, Walton and Stretton.Northwich: Roads and businesses were flooded. The front stalls of the Plaza Cinema were under 3 feet of water. The cellar of Roebuck Hotel in Witton street was flooded. At Comberbach householder were rescued from the upper storeys of houses by firemen working up to their waists.Huge hailstones crashed on car roofs and caused traffic hold ups on the roads south from the Lake District near Preston.Southport: Hailstones as large as marbles fell.Fleetwood: Roads were flooded to a depth of 1 foot and closed pars of Poulton road and Milton Street and Warrenhurst Street. Water was in the hospital boiler room to a depth of 2 feet and also affected basements of houses and shops. Further storms at Fleetwood occurred on 12th. Blackpool: It was the hottest day of the year but there was an afternoon storm of huge hailstones.Burnley: Houses were flooded due to inadequate drainage. It was the hottest May day in 6 Years reaching 71 F (since 25 May 1953 with 78F).Leyland: four cattle were killed by lightning.Nelson: The tower of Station Hotel was struck and broken and the building damaged.  |
| **26 Jul 1959****BR** |  | Sudden thunderstorms flooded roads and houses in many northern towns. At Lytham St. Annes, firemen pumped 2 ft. 6 in. of water from the kitchen of a hotel, while parts of Lord Street, Southport, were flooded to a depth of 6 in. There was a "remarkable" fall at Garstang, north Lancashire, when 1.80 in. of rain was recorded in 60 minutes. |
| **27 Jul 1959****BR** | Garstang Scorton 1.80 in 1 hWhitefield Pk 2.37 in 105 mSquiresgate Blackpool 1.56 in 119 m | July record of LEP is missing |
| **21 Aug 1959****BR****The Times 22 Aug** | Liverpool Monument Pl 1.60 in 23 m | Liverpool: The Mersey Tunnel was flooded to a depth of 18 in. during thunderstorms. This was the first time in its 21 year history and caused serious traffic jams. |
| **6 Jun 1960 Liverpool Echo 6 Jun** |  | <St Helens>: A number of houses were flooded in Silkstone Street and Alexandra drive and fire brigade were called out with respect to a damaged sewer. A roof collapsed during a thunderstorm due to the weight of rain on the roof. |
| **30 Jul 1960****Lancs Evg News 1 Aug** | Fleetwood 1.48 ins | Fleetwood mops up after the storm flooded homes. Poulton Road households had water running in the back and out the front to a depth of over a foot. In the lower part of Poulton Street traffic sent waves into a dozen houses. The cloudburst overwhelmed the drains. A resident said it was the worst for 20 years. |
| **1 Aug 1960****Lancs Evg news 2 Aug** |  | Morcambe storm brought large hailstones. No flooding was reported but the holiday revenue was down. |
| **13 Aug 1960****BR** | Squiresgate Blackpool 0.51 in 2 h |  |
| **23 Aug 1960 Liverpool Echo 23 Aug** | Floods followed thunderstorms in Merseyside and North Wales | <Liverpool>: A supermarket in Norris Green was flooded; traffic was stranded at Queen’s Drive. Supermarket in Broad lane was flooded to a depth of about 4 inches. There was flooding also at Neterfield Road near the Braddocks Flats.<Wallasey>: After a 15 minute thunderstorm, roads were flooded and there was also flooding at Liscard and New Brighton with shops and houses flooded. Worst affected were the Royal Oak Hotel, Liscard Village and a cafe in Victoria road New Brightonand 2 houses in Seabank road.<Bootle>: Road flooding was reported in Stanley Road and Strand Road. |
| **27/28 Aug 1960****BR****The Guardian** **28 Aug****Lancs Evg News 27 Aug** | Speke Apt 0.79 in 30 m | Birkenhead: Heavy rain marooned people in the homes at William Street and flooded the basement of the supermarket and turned many roads into rivers as surface drains overflowed.Garston: Streets were flooded.Fleetwood: Poulton Road was again flooded to a depth of one foot but only streets were affected but not houses.Chorley: ½ inch of rain fell in 39 minutes but only slight flooding was reported. |
| **13 Apr 1961 Liverpool Echo 13 Apr** | Thunderstorm in the Liverpool area with lightning damage but limited flooding | <Birkenhead>: In a thunderstorm with rain and hail streets were flooded.  |
| **5 May 1961****Lancs Evg post** **5 May** | No mention of thunder | ‘Rainstorm swept wide areas of Lancashire’. Telephone services were seriously disrupted.Preston: 1 ½ inches rain in 24 hours but damage limited. There was 6 inches of water on the road at the bottom of Pedder’s Lane Ashton and barrels were flooding in the basement of Butchers and Commercial Hotel on Blackpoo Road and the Acregate Labour Club.Garstang: Water was 3 feet 6 inches deep beneath the rail bridge.Penwortham: Lark Avenue was flooded to a depth of 6 inches and the sewers in Priory Crescent could not cope.Lea: Flooding was reported in Gill Lane, Hall Carr Lane, Marsh Lane, Longton, Lea Road, Hoyle’s lane and Fiddler’s Fold caused by watercourses not being able to take all the water.Blackburn: Rainfall was more than 1 inch in 24 hours. Several houses in Montreal Road Lammack and the boilerhouse at Florence mill were flooded. |
| **12 Jul 1961****Guardian 13 Jul****Lancs Evg Post 12/13 Jul** | Thunderstorm late on 12thThe Open golf Championship was delayed at Birkdale, Southport. | Roads in Wigan, Leigh, Warrington and St Helens were flooded to a depth of several feet. Newton le Willows: All roads leading out were blocked.Wigan: Homes were flooded and furniture ruined. Manchester Road and Higher Ince were worst affected with three feet of water. Water swept down from the old Beehive Colliery site and seeped into half a dozen houses and flooded Manchester Road; a machine shop was under water. A house in Darlington Street was flooded for the second time in 4 years. Scores of calls were made to the Fire Brigade from occupiers of flooded housesBolton: Cottages were flooded to two feet at Barrow Bridge. Parts of the main street were flooded to a depth of 4 feet.Leigh: It had its worst floods for 20 years in a storm which lasted 3 hours. From 500 yards of Leigh Road the water swirled out on to a dozen streets on either side. St Helens road and Twist Lane were both under 2 feet of water.Manchester, Lower Irlam: The Liverpool Road was covered to a depth of 3 feet.Stalybridge: Water washed under front doors in Hawk Street. Preston: The Penwortham district was affected by flooding at Leyland Road, Cop Lane, Pope Lane to depths of 18 inches – including the old world cottages off Pope lane. (LEP has photo of Pope Lane) |
| **2 August 1961****Lancs Evg post 15 Aug** | Thunderstorm (not reported on the day of occurrence) | Bowland fells: Two inches of rain fell in 6 hours causing serious flooding in the valley and damage to the Flyde Water Board conduit bridge at Whittendale near Dunsop Bridge. |
| **3 Sep 1961****BR****Lancs Evg Post 4 Sep and 7 Sep** | BR notes ‘There appear to have been very few years in the present century which could match 1961 for the paucity of intense rains. Among those worth looking into in this respect are 1919, 1922 and 1945’.Ringway Manchester Apt 1.39 in 60 m | ‘Houses, roads flooded as storm hits Lancashire’ A thunderstorm occurred late on night of 2nd and early 3rd.Preston: Many houses were flooded with muddy water. A protest to the town council was reported on 7th by residents of Tulketh Road They reported that water had swept down from a neighbouring high area and flooded nearly every house in the street and also Travis street, Hull Street, Beverley Street, some up to 1 foot deep. A Market Street decorating shop was flooded, also Eldon Street and Greenbank Street. Giant hailstones fell in some areas and the Saddle inn at Lea had windows cracked.Gisburn: The main road was flooded through the village.Parbold and Bispham: streets were flooded |
| **21 Jul 1962 Lancs Evg post 21 Jul** | Heavy rain during the night – no mention of flooding | Blackburn: The only reference was to a collapsing wall and a manhole being forced up in Ramsey Road. |
| **26 Aug 1962****Lancs Evg post 27 aug** | Reference was mainly to high winds Squires Gate Met Stn (Blackpool) reported gusts of 70 to 80 mph | ‘Gale lets Lancashire off lightly’ (Lake District more seriously affected).The Coast Road from Blackpool to Lytham St Annes was virtually impassable due to the covering of sand blown inland.There were also general reports of flooding at Balckburn, Langho, Billington, Ribchester (LEP photo of road flooding), Dinckley, Accrington, Clitheroe, Padiham, Rawansthall, Croston, Horwich, Orrell and Ince. For none of these were details given and it is not clear if any properties were flooded.  |
| **5 Sep 1962****Lancs Evg Post 5 Sep** |  | Preston: Many houses were flooded in Hull Street Ashton. One resident reported carpets ruined for the second time in 12 months. Other streets affected were Tulketh Brow, Miller road, Acregate Lane, Manning Road and Honeysuckle Row. The Goss printing Works in Greenbank Street was flooded. The Sheatsheaf Hotel had 18 inches in the cellar. The Neptune and the newquay Pubs also suffered basement flooding. Water spouted 4 to 5 feet in the air from manholes in Bray Street, Tulketh Road and Travers Street. Water swept down Stead Street West. Flood calls were also received from Beverley Street, Turner Street and Wimmerleigh Street |
| **13 Jun 1963****BR****Lancs Evg Post 12-14 Jun** | Speke Apt 0.79 in 26 m | LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding. |
| **2 Jul 1963****BR** | Dukinfield 1.85 in 2 h | LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding. |
| **4 Jul 1963****Lancs Evg post** **4 Jul** | Thunderstorm | The only reference is of a photo showing Southport in a thunderstorm for 30 minutes which sent holidaymakers scuttling for shelter. |
| **6 Jul 1963****BR****Lancs Evg Post** **6 Jul** | Ringway 1.30 in 111 m | A thunderstorm was reported at Morecambe with ½ inch rain but no flooding was reported. |
| **30 May 1964****Guardian 1 Jun****Lancs Evg Post 30 May-1 Jun****Eden (2008)** | Lightning did serious damage to a bungalow at Halton near Lancaster – one man was injured.Intense thunderstorms occurred over the central Pennines. Brushes Clough near Oldham collected 123 mm. | <Oldham>: At Denshaw the River Tame burst a culvert and washed away part of the road. Scores of families left their homes in Delph, Denshaw , other Saddleworth villages and Milnrow, Newhey and Shaw. Forty families were evacuated at Delph. A ninety year old woman was rescued in Delph after being found lying in 2 feet of flood water in Brookside terrace. At Denshaw, five families were taken to the village school. Fifteen homes were flooded at Shaw. At Ribchester near Blackburn scores of houses were flooded. Roads became rivers, water rushed through homes; a canoeist paddled along Blackburn Road. A two hour deluge was followed by a break then a renewal of the storm. The drains in Preston road, Blackburn Road, Church Street and Stonygate Lane were unable to cope. The Police Station in Preston Road and a neighbouring house were flooded knee deep. Blackburn road (and the New Hotel) was flooded to 3 feet in places. In Water Lane 2 houses were affected. The Bee Mill was filled with water. One resident noted: ‘I have lived here more than 40 years and have never seen anything like it’. At Delph near Oldham a lake threatened to overflow and people downstream were evacuated until water was pumped to reduce the level.The Huddersfield to Manchester railway between Marsden and Diggle was blocked by 5 feet of floodwater and tons of sludge, rocks and floating debris. Passengers were trapped in the Marsden tunnel for 4 hours.  |
| **12 Jun 1964****BR****Lancs Evg Post 12-15 Jun** | Hardham 18.0 in 21 m | LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding. |
| **18 Jul 1964****BR****JBA Ribble Report****Gt Manchester SFRA Appendix B 2008****Lancs Evg Post 18-20 Jul, Liverpool Echo 18 Jul** | Hailstones were widely reported.Bolton 55.9 in 15 m (60.2 in 30 m)Habergham Eaves 35.8 in 25 mLeigh STW 38.1 in 45 mLight Alders Fm 30.0 in 45 mWarrington highways Yd 34.3 in 90 mChorley 0.31 ins in 20 mins | Serious flooding on the Calder and Darwen with rainfall of more than 3.0 inches in places in the Darwen/Burnley/Blackburn area. A five foot high tidal wave on the Darwen carried away the parapet of Hollin St bridge and 236 houses in Blackburn were flooded including Princess Street. There was also flooding in Padiham, Colne, Barley, and Accrington. Blackburn Road Darwen was flooded. In Darwen, residents in Cross Street were cut off and a house in Sough Street partially collapsed. In aptly named Watery Lane, water poured into the front of a row of cottages and out through the rear windows and one house partially collapsed. In India Mill in Darwen the floodwater was waist deep.<Bolton>: Localised flooding occurred from the Croal.<Oldham>: 350 properties were flooded from the River Beal at Shaw.<Burnley>: Hailstones pelted shoppers; the central area was awash; a supermarket and shops were flooded. A high lodge wall behind Burnley Mill collapsed under water pressure. The Hindley supermarket was flooded. In Burnley centre, traffic came to a standstill in two feet of water, littered with debris, after the steep Manchester Road became a raging torrent, while at Crawshawbooth poultry cabins and sheds floated down the river.<Higham>: A grocer’s shop was flooded to the downstairs ceiling; owners and 12 customers took refuge upstairs.<Rising Bridge> (S of Accrington): Three people were rescued after cottages fell down with river floods. <Nelson>: Residents in Thomas Street were forced to move upstairs and one housewife said: “I cannot get into the house, my furniture is floating about in the living room and water is neck high.”<Warrington>: Roads were flooded up to 1 foot deep. In Bridge Street newspaper placard boards floated away; market stalls were washed out. Warrington Rugby club dressing rooms were flooded to a depth of 1 foot. Many mills were flooded; one had 4 feet of water in acotton shed; machines were ripped up and electrical equipment ruined (Healey Wood Mill Co).Marshalls furniture shop in St James Street was seriously flooded. At the factories of Lambert Howarth, 800 workers were laid off. Town hotels including the Sparrow Hawk at Wheatley Lane had cellars flooded. Market stalls were smashed by hailstones, some as big as golf balls. The hailstones piled up 2 feet deep in Holmes Street as water swept down from Bradshaw estate. Several cars and a tanker stuck in hailstones had to be dug out. Two windows in the police station were broken by hail. Water flooded through Warrington Fish Market and Warrington General market and a lot of stock was ruined. The main road between Warrington and Liverpool was flooded at Great Sankey.Ormskirk: The open air market was washed out and streets in the centre were flooded. There was some flooding on Wigan Road.Blackburn: The thunder and rain caused the river Darwen to spill over – said to be the worst for 20 years. The river rose so rapidly many households were taken unawares before water swept through their homes in the Waterfall district. An elderly woman was swept from her feet and carried 20 yards in Princess Street before being rescued. The water demolished a 5 foot stone wall buttressing one end of a stone bridge and smashed part of the bridge ironworks. Albert Street was flooded 2 feet deep. The River Darwen filled the Stokes Hall Hotel wine cellar to the top step.River Darwen at Ewood gauging station Blackburn SD677262 <Rossendale Valley>: A freak hailstorm made roads completely impassable. Hailstones piled up like snowdrifts.<Haslingden>: Houses were 10 feet under water and cars were covered with flood water.A landslide blocked the M6 South of Newton le Willows.Floodwater from the surrounding moorland seeped through the mile-long Sough Tunnel and crumbled part of the inner wall on to the track. Both ends were then blocked by mountains of earth and train services were disrupted for several days.At Worthington near Standish a farm barn was struck by lightning and set the building and hay alight. In Wigan 2 houses were struck by lightning. |
| **7 Oct 1964****The Guardian 8 Oct****Lancs Evg Post 6-8 Oct** | Thunderstorms | Haslingden: A factory was flooded and the road to Accrington was under 4 feet of water and cars abandoned.Ormskirk: Lightning caused electricity supplies to be cut off.LEP refers to severe flooding in the West Cumbria area but nothing in Lancashire. |
| **11 Sep 1965****Lancs Evg post****11 Sep** |  | LEP has two photos of flooding in Garstang but no additional text. |
| **17 Jun 1966****BR****Lancs Evg Post 16-18 Jun** | Speke Apt 20.4 in 20 m | LEP has reference only to heavy rain affecting Old Trafford cricket. |
| **22 Aug 1966****Lancs Evg Post 22 Aug** | Thunderstorm | A thunderstorm washed out a Lancashire Gala and waterlogged the ground at Euxton, Chorley. |
| **5 Sep 1966****Lancs Evg Post 5 Sep** |  | Ulnes Walton: A whirlwind tore through the village smashing everything in its path.Preston: Traffic built up on the Warton Road because of flooding. Road flooding occurred at Pope Lane where trouble was caused by traffic swishing water towards houses. Cellars were affected by flooding at the Rose and Crown, Hoole and at the Railway Inn Ribbeton. |
| **11 May 1967****BR****The Guardian 12 May****Lancs Evg Post 10-12 May** | Fallowfield Platt Fields Pk 85.9 in 6 hManchester Airport –nearly 1 inch of rain in 2 hours. | Winds E to NE light; frontal, thundery; slow-moving cold front affecting area.Flooding was reported widely in the Manchester and north Cheshire area. The River Irk overflowed and motorists abandoned their cars in Collyhurst on Rochdale Road and at Victoria Park in the Finney Lane area of Heald Green. Houses were flooded in Westwood Road Heald Green. Traffic was also halted at the Downing Street end of the Mancunian Way and under the railway arches at Store Street, London Road. Flooding was also reported at the Platt Lane area of Princess Road. At Manchester University the Student’s Union basement was flooded.Salford: Roads in the Kersal and Broughton areas were flooded and several houses were reported flooded.LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding. |
| **27 May 1967****The Guardian 28 May****Lancs Evg Post 26-28 May** | Thunderstorm | Warrington: Water was 2 feet deep on the Orford Road Bypass.There were also reports of flooding of a school at Tydesley, a hotel in Atherton and three houses in that district.LEP has no reference to rainfall except ‘the rain had set in for the day’. |
| **29 May 1967****BR****Lancs Evg Post 29May – 1 Jun** | Swinton STW 28.7 in 1h 10 m | Winds S to SE light; thundery; unstable airstream.LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding. |
| **20 Jun 1967****BR****Lancs Evg Post****19-21 Jun** | Liverpool Knotty Ash 23.6 in 40 m | LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding. |
| **25 Jun 1967****Manchester Evg News 14 Jul 2011** |  | Middleton: A terrific thunderstorm followed by torrential rain caused severe flooding. At 5.29 pm on Sunday June 25 a call was logged at the Middleton Fire Brigade that the White Hart pub at Birch was under water. Three feet six inches of rain water had surrounded the building which burst open the front doors causing severe damage to the interior. One internal door was ripped from its hinges such was the impact of the torrent of flood water. Its cellars and ground floor were completely flooded. Several other houses in the area also became flooded. One resident said it was the worst that he had seen within the last 50 years. In Middleton centre the Magistrates Court and Police Station became flooded. In total the torrential rain that day caused GBP50,000 worth of damage in the town. An emergency generator had to be brought in when all the mains power failed at the Police HQ. The telephone and radio communications were put out of order, as an emergency measure a police radio car was positioned outside the Oldham Road station to maintain contact with the Preston headquarters. |
| **14 Jul 1967****BR****Eden (2008)****Lancs Evg Post 14 Jul, Liverpool Echo 14 Jul** | Squiresgate 31.0 in 1 h 32 mSouthport 47.0 in 2 hClifton: A fireball dropped into the Irwell Valley at 4.30 am. | Winds light, variable; thundery; col with unstable air.Serious flooding occurred in parts of Merseyside and the Wirral from thunderstorms.LEP refers to ‘Worst storm for 20 years’. It damaged homes, roads and valuable crops.<Morecambe>: Seafront hotels were flooded including those in Carlton Terrace and Marine Road East such as the Troughton Private Hotel.<Southport>: Rain caused widespread flooding and one house in Norwood Road was hit by lightning. Firemen responded to 30 calls to pump out flooded basements of houses and shops.<Fleetwood> and <Thornton>: Low lying roads were under water.<Ormskirk>: Moss Delph Lane at Aughton and Wigan Road were flooded and pumped out by firemen as was Hattersley’ Brass Foundry. <Southport>: The storm was described as the worst for 20 years and lasted for 4 hours; 30 shop basements were flooded and had to be pumped out.<Preston>: There was extensive flooding in the Blackpool Road, Ashton near the secondary school and also in the Beverley Street, Tulketh Road (to a depth of 4 inches) and Watery Lane area. At Horrock Observatory at Moor Park 1.23 inches fell between1.30 and 6.00 am.<St Anne’s>: Ormerod Home, a convalescent home for children in Clifton Drive North was flooded several inches deep. Several private hotels on the South Promenade were also flooded, including Langcliffe Private Hotel, Carleton, Oceandene and Clifton. St Anne’s College for Girls and Woolworths on Clifton Drive were also affected.<Blackpool>: A number of houses were flooded (location not specified).<Merseyside>: Thousands of telephone lines were out of action due to the flooding of cable ducts.<Liverpool>: Nelson special School was flooded. Amongst other places affected were Alser Hey and St Pauls hospitals. The George Henry Lee store had flooding in the basement as had Woolworth’s in Church Street. <Birkenhead>: The emergency bay at the General Hospital was flooded. Heavy paving stones in Borough road were carried 60 yards. The library was flooded in the children’s department; the Borough treasurer’s office was flooded. <Ellesmere Port>: the Vauxhall factory was flooded to a depth of several inches but little damage done.<Wallasey>: Flooding occurred in Poulton Bridge Road and the water was 3 feet deep.Bootle>: The library in Oriel Road, St Winefride’s Primary school and several local factories were flooded.<Crosby>: Roads flooded included Endbutt lane, Kershaw Avenue, Edgemoor Drive and the junction of Liveerpool Road and college Road. |
| **8 Aug 1967****BR****The Guardian 12 May****Lancs Evg Post 9 Aug** | Burnley 44.7 in 45 mBetham Summerhill 34.8 in 2 hPedder Potts Resvr 56.1 in 2 h 30 mCroasdale house 14 63.0 in 2 h 52 mOgden resvr 80.5 in 2 hButtock 82.5 in 2 hStodday 38.1 in 2 hStocks 21 D 39.4 in 2 h 42 mPhynis No 18 52.1 in 2 h 42 mSlaidburn 41.7 in 2 h 42 m | Winds E light to moderate; frontal, thundery; almost stationary cold front with wave over area.There were several lightning deaths in other parts of England.Lancashire County Council donated £500 to a relief fund at Wray and £250 at Barrowford (See South Lakes chronology – River Lune) .<Wray>: 16 families (37 people) were made homeless caused by flooding of the <<River Roeburn>>.Nelson: Hundreds of homes were flooded in the area especially in the village of Barrowford where cars and motor cycles were floating down the main street in waist high water. Shop fronts on the main street collapsed as the central area of the village became a huge lake. Scores of families were trapped in their bedrooms. Caravans and cows were washed down Pendle Water In nearby Barley, one family left their cottage on the river bank just minutes before part of the building collapsed.Clitheroe: ‘The water rose so rapidly the town was helpless.’ Houses were flooded in Taylor Street where the water ran in the front and out the back. The A59 was blocked in Whalley road. Some streets were flooded to 3 feet. The villages of Bolton-by-Bowland, Grindleton, Downham, Sawley and Dunsop Bridge were all flooded in the early stages as the water rose in some places in village streets 5 feet deep.Heysham: The town centre was flooded. In Hawksworth Grove the water poured through a building site and into pensioner’s houses. Muddy water lifted carpets and floated furniture. Old folk were carried out by rescuers through thigh deep water. In Tibicar Drive 30 homes were flooded.Morecambe: In a 90 minute storm hotels and houses over a wide area were flooded. Troughton Hotel in Calton Terrace was flooded to 7 inches. A resident of Heysham road said that it was the third time in 9 months that she had been flooded, this time ankle deep. Clarendon, Wellington and Imperial Hotels were affected and the Davy Jones Locker at the Clarendon which is lower than the Promenade was a foot deep in water.<Barrowford>: Residents were baling water out of their houses.Lightning struck and damaged buildings in Chorley and Southport. |
| **9 Aug 1967****BR****Lancs Evg Post****10 Aug, Birmingham Daily Post 10 Aug**  | A second thunderstorm in 24 hoursBurnley 40.6 in 65 mNelson 42.9 in 2 hFoulridge Lower resvr 35.6 in 2 h 15 mBailrigg 41.1 in 1 h 15 mHampson in Ellel 44.2 in 1 h 30 m | Winds light, variable; depression, thundery; slack area of low pressure affecting area.Preston: A violent deluge swamped a row of terrace houses in Beverley Street off Tulketh road flooding homes to a depth of more than 12 inches. Residents claimed that the council had allowed drains to block up but the Borough Engineer responded that the storm would have required drains the size of railway tunnels to carry away the water; the new northern sewer laid ten years ago has helped but some properties are still flood prone.Nelson: Pendle Water nearly rose to danger point but there was very little flooding. A stream overflowed on Hibson Road; 6000 chicks were drowned when a stream overflowed in a low lying part of Nelson.<Burnley>: Emergency services responded to 50 emergency calls for flooding; among the worst were terraced houses in Gannow Lane where about 20 houses were flooded to a depth of 3 feet.[This is River Lune – already covered – above] |
| **10 Aug 1967****BR** | Chatburn 38.6 in 1 h 35 m | Winds W light; thundery; unstable airstream |
| **13 Aug 1967****Lancs Evg post 13/14 Aug, Acreman 1989 re Hydraulics Research Station (1968)** | Thunderstorm during the night | Slaidburn: Farmers on the Slaidburn and Brennand fells reckoned that many cattle, hundreds of sheep and poultry perished in the renewed floods. Some of the fell farms are almost in ruins; fences and hundred year old stone walls have been washed away.Dunsop Bridge: It was badly hit by the flooding; occupants of 4 houses had to be evacuated. Acreman lists a peak flood discharge of 271.8 cumecs on a catchment of 28.7 km2 on the Dunsop Water, Bowland Forest.When the River Beck broke its banks farms were engulfed and buildings and farm machinery were washed away.An official said hundreds of acres of pasture land have been ruined and will be out of production for a couple of years. Acres of land are covered by thousands of uprooted trees and tons of silt. Flood levels in some farm houses were 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet. In one case when a sheet of water came down the hillside 100 sheep were lost.Acreman on the basis of a HR report also lists floods of 637.0 cumecs on 83.4 Km2 on the Hindburn, 52.3 cumecs on a catchment of 6.9 km2 on the Blacko water and 66.5 cumecs on a catchment of 2.2 km2 on the Claughton Beck |
| **23 Aug 1967****BR****Lancs Evg post 21-23 Aug** | Hunts Lock 37.3 in 45 m | LEP has no reference to rainfall or flooding |
| **21 Sep 1967****BR, Liverpool Echo 21 Sep** | Crosshill Resvr 50.8 in 2 h | <Brimstage> (Wirral): An early morning thunderstorm flooded the village roads but houses were not flooded since they were at a higher level. Brimstage Hall Farm was badly flooded. Many parts of the Wirral were similarly affected causing road and rail delays but no reports of houses flooded. |
| **26 Sep 1967****BR** | Lyme Pk 38.6 in 1 hDisley High Lane 29.0 in 1 hGlossop STW 32.0 in 1 hChew Mount 35.5 in 1 h |  |
| **1 Jul 1968****BR****The Guardian 2 Jul** **Lancs Evg post 2 Jul** | ThunderstormWarrington 17.0 in 10 mCholmondley 26.9 in 10 mRingway 15.0 in 10 mWidnes Lab 21.3 in 12 mGreenfield STW 24.4 in 15 mWidnes Corp Depot 18.5 in 20 mThe hottest day in Britain for years. | Winds variable light becoming NW strong in west; depression, frontal, thundery; depression over northern France extending northwards with associated front stationary over western districts of England and Wales.Rochdale: Three boys fell in the River Beale and one was drowned. The river usually a trickle had grown to 6 feet deepManchester: 150 trains were held up due to lightning and floods. Roads at Collyhurst and Longsight were flooded.Warrington: several roads were flooded. The police station was flooded.Oldham: Works and houses were flooded and several houses damaged by lightning. Par of the town centre at Middleton was closed because of floodwater breaking up the road.Hyde: Flooding occurred in hotels, shops and schools, the public library and the Income tax office.Newton le Willows: A ten minute storm blocked all roads in and out of the town. Houses were flooded and evacuated in the Eagle Street area. A British Legion Club was flooded. A man had to climb out of the roof of his car when it was enveloped in 6 feet of water.Nantwich: 19 cows were killed by lightning.Saddleworth: Water flooded down the hillside and houses in many parts of the district were flooded.Ribchester: a house was struck by lightning and set alight.Chorley: the fire brigade reported floods in Weldbank and four houses in Railway Road Brinscall |
| **2 Jul 1968****BR** | Saddleworth 16.5 in 6 mArnfield Resvr 28.7 in 10 mKinder filters 17.0 in 12 m | Winds W moderate to strong; depression, orographic thundery; complex depression over the U.K. deepening in the north of England.Blackpool: Storm winds were reported causing damage along the coast; trees were blown down. There was flooding in East Park Drive.Ormskirk: A house was struck by lightning as well as a primary school at Aughton.Farmers reported losses of poultry swept into the River Ribble and Hodder. |
| **2 Sep 1968****BR** | Brushes Clough 33.0 in 1 h 30 mCold greave 31.5 in 1 h 30 m |  |
| **20 Sep 1968****Eden (2008)** |  | Flooding occurred in mid and east Lancashire and West and South Yorkshire. Great Heys had 117 mm and Yateholme 115 mm. |
| **6 May 1969 Liverpool Echo 6 May** | Not clear if this was a flash flood; no mention of thunder. | <Brimstage>: The centre of the village was turned into a lake and <<Brimstage Brook>> overflowed in a torrent of muddy water. Brimstage Village Hall was isolated but most of the cottages and farmhouses are on higher ground. Roads were flooded but there was no reference to flooding of property  |
| **30 May 1969 Liverpool Echo 31 May** | Thunder with hail | <Crewe>: Hundreds of homes were flooded an maternity hospital evacuated and a Cumbeerland Arms Hotel badly damaged; the water in the cellars was 6 feet deep. Worst areas of the town affected were Wistaston and Covpenhall where hundreds of homes were flooded  |
| **7 May 1971****The Guardian 7 May** | ThunderstormManchester Airport 0.58 ins | Stretford Barton Road: Cars were stranded in thunderstorms with water 2 feet deep under a railway bridge. Other areas affected were Crewe and Sandbach. Houses were struck in Bury and set alight, also the Bull’s Head Arms near Altringham lightning caused damage. |
| **19 Oct 1971****Guardian Oct 20** | Heavy but prolonged rainfallManchester 2.49 insOldham 3.44 ins in 18 h | Road flooding was widespread in South Lancs and on the Fylde coast. |
| **21 May 1973****The Guardian 22 May** |  | A thunderstorm lasting an hour caused flooding in the northern and eastern suburbs of Liverpool. The water rose more than a foot in places. |
| **15/16 Jul 1973****Eden (2008)****NRFA** | 15th 26 raingauges recorded more than 100 mm Over the 2 day period rain fell in 42 to 44 hours.Not a thunderstorm | Widespread flooding occurred. Areas affected included north Derbyshire, east Cheshire, and Greater Manchester. Mersey at Brinksway had its highest peak flow 1955 to 2020 and notes that this was the only occasion when there was the only known flooding of Stockport from the Mersey. |
| **30/31 Jul 1973****COL** |  | Heavy thunderstorms occurred over East Cheshire and W Derbyshire with resulting flooding but there was no rainfall at Manchester Airport. |
| **3 Aug 1973****COL** | Manchester = very wet month  | Cheadle Hulme observer notes that a local thunderstorm caused some flooding near Stockport. |
| **14 Jul 1975****COL, Liverpool Echo 14 Jul** | Thunderstorms | Thunderstorms caused structural damage and flooding in many places in northeast Lancashire.Houses were struck in Burnley and Brierfield.Rawensthall: The town centre was flooded to a depth of 2 feet and at nearby Stubbins a Dormobile had to be rescued from 4 feet of water under a railway bridge.<Warrington>: Some Warrington roads were under a foot of water and the floods entered shops houses and other premises. |
| **17 Jul 1975****COL** | Thunderstorm | Bacup: A thunderstorm in the valley north of Bacup caused extensive flooding of property and cut off the town centre from surrounding areas for several hours. |
| **14 Jun 1977****The Guardian 15 Jun** | Thunderstorm | St Helens: A young man was killed when struck by lightning.Many Merseyside roads were flooded including the M57 and M62 near Huyton where firemen pumped away flood water. |
| **1 Jun 1978****COL Rate of Rise analysis** | Accrington 44.5 mm in 70 m | Roch at Blackford Bridge had its highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 1.62 m per hourTame at Portwood had its second highest 15 minute rate of rise 1969 to 2014 of 0.95 m per hour |
| **4 Jun 1978****COL** |  | Heswall, Merseyside: 23.3 mm in 40 m was the heaviest rainfall on a thunder day since 1969. Flooding was widespread especially in Heswall but also in central Liverpool. |
| **24 Jun 1979 Rate of rise records** |  | River Mersey at Ashton weir had its highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 1.61 m per hour  |
| **23 Aug 1979 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Ribble at Henthorn had highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1976 to 2014 of 3.30 m per hour |
| **5 Jun 1980****COL****Eden (2008)****The Guardian 6 Jun. Rate of Rise analysis** | Thunderstorms | Accrington: six boys were struck by lightning on an Accrington school playing field; one dies and others were injured.Flooding at Darwen followed rainfall of 567 mm(?) in less than 2 hours.The boy was killed moving from one part of Moorhead Comprehensive School to another.Floodwaters up to 2 feet deep blocked roads in Leigh Wigan and Oldham areas.Darwen: Sewage flowed into 40 homes and shops when at temporary sewer could not cope withflash floods.Croal at Farnworth Weir had the second highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1976 to 2014 of 0.95 m/hour |
| **23/27 Oct 1980****COL** | Prolonged rainfall | Two days of heavy rain caused flooding from the Ribble combined with high tides. Flooded blackspots included Ribchester near Blackburn, where the village was completely cut off by the swollen Ribble, Samelsbury near Preston where the Tickled Trout Hotel was marooned in acres of water and Dunsop Bridge in the Hodder Valley where agricultural land was said to have suffered the worst flooding in 50 years. On 27 October, St Michael on Wyre was cut off from surrounding districts for several days. |
| **5/7 Aug 1981****Daily Mail 7 Aug****COL** | Thunderstorms on 5 and 6 Aug when 2 day totals of more than 80 mm occurred in an area from Cheshire to South Yorks. Eaton nr Tarporley 132 mmManchester Arpt 95.9 mm in 12 h to 09.00 on 6th | Manchester: 3 ½ inches fell in 24 hours and some roads were closed by landslides. There were waterlogged tracks in Cheshire. |
| **5 Jun 1982 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Darwen at Ewood bridge had highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 3.53 m per hour |
| **1 Jun 1983 Liverpool echo 2 Jun** |  | <Liverpool>: Flooding occurred at Aigburth road, Ullet Road and Alexandra Drive area. At Aigburth Road flooding occurred for the second time in 9 months. Cellars were filled with silty water and two stores have had to close to replace damaged stock and shelving. The flood locations included the Aigburth Home Care Centre where there was 2 feet of water outside and a foot of water inside. The storm flooded roads and gardens and forced motorists blinded by giant hailstones to pull up at the side of the road. |
| **7 Jun 1983****COL, Webb and Elsom (2016)** | Liverpool Sefton Pk hailstorm | Observer reported lumps of ice about as big as golf balls of various dimensions but all had a cloudy or opaque core surrounded by clear ice. Hail fell for five minutes followed by heavy rain for 10 minutes. There was much flooding in southern parts of Liverpool. Conditions towards Warrington were more severe and glasshouses and nurseries were completely destroyed by the hail. |
| **8 Jun 1983****COL****Guardian 9 Jun,****Webb abd Elsom (2016)** | Southport: Giant hailstones recorded 1 ½ by 1 ¼ inch | <Manchester>: Hailstones were big enough to shatter windows. Hail caused the roof of a house in Prestwich to collapse. There were general reports of flooding and hail round the country. Hailstones 50 mm diameter or more were reported at Sale, Manchester airport, and golf ball sized hail at Parrington, Urmston, and Barnoldswick. |
| **17 Jul 1983 Rate of Rise Records** |  | Bollin at Wilmslow had its highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 2.04 m per hour |
| **21 Aug 1987****COL****Eden (2008)****Lancs Evg Post 22 Aug** | Widespread thunderstorms following the wettest August since 1958Longridge 48.5 (daily) | Serious flooding affected the Wigan area.Preston: Sudden storms occurred around Preston. In Hartington Road houses were flooded including the NORWEB office which had 3 feet of water in its basement. Thousands of homes were without electricity. Roads in the vicinity of Woodplumpton, Broughton and Catforth were impassable by car. Worst hit was Bentham area of the Lune Valley. |
| **23 Aug 1987****Lancs Evg post 24 Aug** | Preston: 64 mm occurred over the weekend.Damage was done by ‘flash floods’ with extremely heavy rainfall in a very short time | Homes were without electricity or gas in Leyland, Chorley and Croston.Croston: More than 200 houses were flooded when the River Yarrow overflowed.Leyland: More than 60 houses and 27 businesses were flooded LEP has a photo of Leyland town centre with people with water up to their thighs. The Yarrow and Lostock Rivers flooded Leyland affecting Chapel Brow, Seven Stars, Western Drive and Mendip Road. Chapel Brow was under 4 to 5 feet of water. ‘Children were diving off the top of bus shelters’. Men of 80 said they had never seen flooding like it.Wigan: Appley Bridge, a 40-home estate had to be evacuated. Families were rescued from bedroom windows. ‘It happened in no time at all. The door burst open and the water gushed in’.Whittle le Woods: 20 cottages were flooded. The River Lostock poured out several feet high into a pub the Roebuck Inn and a row of cottages across the road.Preston: Savick Brook was affected and Savick house cellar was flooded. Astley village had one house flooded to a depth of 5 feet. |
| **3 May 1988****COL** |  | Heswall Merseyside: A heavy thunderstorm occurred in the Wirral causing local damage due to a lightning strike. It was reported to be the worst such incident in several years. |
| **19 Oct 1988****Eden (2008)** |  | A thunderstorm let to severe flooding in Liverpool and the Wirral. Crosby had 82 mm mostly in 75 minutes. |
| **19 May 1989 Liverpool Echo 20 May** |  | <Formby>: At Cross Green firmen had to pump water out of flooded houses. The rain was accompanied by hailstones about half an inch across – ‘but it was the rains which did the real damage with quite a number of houses flooded’.<Crosby>: There was no rain but a fierce electrical storm causing lightning damage including a factory chimney. |
| **24 May 1989****The Times** **25 May****Lancs Evg post 24-26 May, Aberdeen Press and journal 25 May** | Thunderstorm following hot humid weather with much of the rest of the country remaining dry. Temperature in London reached 85F the highest in May for more than 40 years. | Manchester, Chorlton: Two boys were drowned as a flood swept away their boat in a covered river outlet that flows into the Mersey at Chorlton. <Kettleshulme> (near Whaley Bridge).A man was killed when his car was carried away by a flooded stream. The report says he was swept away by a ‘wall of water’ as he drove across a bridge over a stream. His car was carried away and left on its roof in a field. He tried to climb out of the car window but his route was blocked and he drowned as the car filled with water.Todd brook near Kettleshulme SJ988804LEP has no reference either to rain or flooding.A flash flood affected Wildboarclough East of Macclesfield in Cheshire. A plaque on the bridge commemorates the event.River Irk at Scotland Weir had its highest record of 15 minute rate of rise of 1.93 m per hourDarwen at Blue bridge had it highest record of 15 minute rate of rise of 2.50 m per hour(NB Colne at Colne Bridge (Yorks) had its second highest rate of rise on 19th May of 1.83 m per hour) |
| **25 May 1989****COL** | Thunderstorm with hail | Heywood: Lightning struck Siddal Moor High School and caused damage whilst the school was also flooded. Many streets in Heywood were flooded. |
| **26 Jun 1989****COL****Lancs Evg Post 27 Jun** | ThunderstormLongridge 54.9 (daily) | ‘Floods cause chaos throughout the country’Preston: Houses in Fishwick Bottoms were trapped by floods after the drains were unable to cope.Chorley: Ahouse in Jackson Street was flooded and also Ollerton Terrace in Withness near Chorley |
| **30 Jun 1989****COL** | ThunderstormHeywood 43.7 (daily) |  |
| **6 Jul 1991****COL****Lancs Evg Post****8 Jul** | Heswall Merseyside: 8 mm in 15 m | A golfer was struck by lightning at Leyland but escaped injury. |
| **25 Aug 1990 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Pendle Water at Barden Lane had second highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 2.53 m per hour |
| **30 Jul 1991****COL****Lancs Evg Post 31 Jul** |  | Preston observer notes ‘Day of the Southport downpour’ but only a trace was recorded at Preston. Southport: Homes and hotels were swamped. 50 homes had cellars and basements flooded. Nursing homes and hotels were also hit. The tide was high and the water was just not draining away. Homes in The Promenade, Knowsley Road, Latham Road and Albany Road were worst hit. Crosslyn Nursing Home with 21 residents was also flooded. OIt was said that there was nothing so so severe since the floods of 1973. Roads are below sea level and pumps operate in wet weather (but in this case were inadequate). |
| **29 May 1992****COL** | Heswall Thunderstorm for 1.5 h with 10 mm and minor flooding |  |
| **9 Jun 1992****COL** | Heswall daily total only 16.3 | ‘A thundery day on Merseyside’ A storm occurred over Liverpool and SW Lancs. North Liverpool to Formby suffered from severe flooding and hail variously described as the size of 10p pieces or golf balls, which blocked the drains. A succession of three storms was reported. 2mm fell in 2 m.Bolton: Thunderstorm caused lightning and flood damage. |
| **October 1992****Gt Manchester SFRA**  |  | Bolton: Surface water flooding was reported at Horwich. |
| **25 Oct 1992 RoR analysis** |  | Douglas at Wanes Blades had its highest 15 minute R of R 1973 to 2012 of 0.87 m (19.0 cumecs) |
| **24 Jun 1993****COL** | Radcliffe: 5 mm in 10 m | Bury: House struck by lightningRadcliffe: Several thundery cells passed; first thunder since Oct 1993 |
| **24 Jul 1994****COL** |  | Wirral, Heswall: Two thunderstorms ‘possibly the worst since July 1967; widespread minor flooding and lightning damage. (Second observer notes longest storms since 1 / 2 Jul 1968) |
| **30 Jul 1994****COL** | ThunderstormTurton: 12.4 in 30 m | Turton: House damaged by lightning.Liverpool: Severe thunderstorm reported.  |
| **3 Aug 1994****COL** |  | Heavy downpours reported in the Oldham area |
| **10 Jul 1995****COL** | Widespread thunderstorms reported Turton: 25.8 mm in c 30 m | Preston, Howick: A farm worker was killed by lightning.Bolton: thunderstorm with local flooding and lightning damage, the most serious for several years. |
| **4/5 Sep 1995****COL** | 2 Heswall Wirral observers report thunderstormsHeswall 1 66.1 on 5thHeswall 2: 38.4 up to 9 am; 27.5 in following daylight hours. Lightning damage reported locally. | Heswall 1: Liverpool was badly affected by flooding, notably central and south with many shops and houses flooded. Parts of North Wirral also had bad flooding. The storms appears to be generated over the sea, possibly the unusually high sea temperature was a contributing factor. The last notable occasion with such conditions was on 20 Sep 1967 when over 3 inches fell at Crosshill Reservoir 3 miles away.Heswall 2: The storms were not forecast and formed over the warm waters of Liverpool Bay.  |
| **6 Aug 1996 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Dane at Hug Bridge had highest 15 minute rate of rise in Q 1992 to 2014 |
| **26 Aug 1996****COL** | Bidston 25.8 in 40 m (tot 32.6)- the heaviest rainfall in any month since 9 Aug 1959Heswall 1 20 mm most in 15 mHeswall 2 16 mm in 60 mA funnel cloud on Mersey estuary. | Wirral: flooding reported, severe in north Wirral. Water was up to 4 feet deep in Moreton |
| **13 May 1997****COL** | Turton (N of Bolton) Thunderstorm with hail (under 5 mm), flooding reported in locality | Bolton: Flash floods caused chaos all over Bolton on Tuesday night and several roads and buildings were badly affected. Water poured through the letterbox at The Spinners on Brownlow Way and at one point boxes were floating around on four feet of water. Matthew Brown hostelry was severely flooded. |
| **21 Jun 1997****COL** |  | Liverpool: thunderstorm with marble sized hail which covered the ground and damaged garden plants. |
| **6 Jun 1998****COL** | Longridge Violent thunderstorm for 45 m |  |
| **15 Jun 1998****COL** | Macclesfield 3 hour storm 25 mm at station but Prestbury 38 mm and Hurdsfield 58 mm | Macclesfield: 60 houses flooded in the town centre where the River Bollin burst its banks. |
| **1 Sep 1998****COL****Lancs County Publs 10 Sep** | ThunderstormPreston 26.5 mm | Leyland: flash floods wreaked chaos across the area. Hundreds of local school children flocked to Chapel Brow after the bottom of the road became submerged in three feet of water following just 15 minutes of torrential rain. Some houses and shops were affected. "It is the worst we have seen it for 13 years."  |
| **7 May 1999****COL** | Turton 33.3 ThRadcliffe 29.3 Th | Both stations wettest day in May for >10 years |
| **5 Jul 1999****COL****Lancs County Publs 6/7/9 Jul** | Isolated ThKearsley 62 mm in 1 h 45 m (2” in 1 h) Hail 7-10 mm DiameterRadcliffe 25 mm in 45 m | Stoneclough, Radcliffe: 13 properties flooded up to 2 feet. One pub reported to be 10 feet under water.Kearsley: Road flooding all round the area. It was the heaviest rain since recording began in 1949.Bury: Freak weather within half-an-hour, turned roads in Bury, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom and Tottington into rivers, and flooded houses and businesses. At the height of the flooding five fire engines were deployed to Ramsbottom and Tottington. Worst-hit in Bury was Holme Avenue, Brandlesholme, where the flood water was at least 18 inches deep after the drains failed to cope with the heavy rainfall. The road was impassable and cars had to be abandoned on near-by streets. Dirty water complete with sewage seeped into nearby houses.Ramsbottom: Part of the surface on Walmersley Road was raised nearly a foot by the pressure of the water. Crow Lane in Ramsbottom and Scobell Street in Tottington had to be closed and traffic diverted. Sandbags could not prevent gushing water coming off a school playing field and flooding houses on nearby Bolton Road West.Radcliffe businesses were washed out when flash-floods hit parts of the town. Water Street was covered in 18 inches of water. The cellar at The Colliers Arms, Water Street, was flooded - the fourth time in less than three months. Ainsworth Road in Radcliffe was also affected. Three units at the Bradley Fold Industrial Estate were flooded and a fire crew spent around an hour at the scene to clear away water.Rossendale: In Crawshawbooth village, a grid to prevent a culvert under Burnley Road blocking up, filled with debris as the river rose, causing Limy Water to burst its banks sending several feet of water cascading through the village. A Bowling Supplies and a Bakery were flooded 6 inches deep. "It was the worst flooding we have seen in the 24 years I have lived here." At one time, flood water in Crawshawbooth was six feet deep and the main road through the village was closed. Kenross Containers and Offices at James Killelea and Co Ltd, structural engineers, of StoneholmeRoad, Crawshawbooth, were also flooded.Rawtenstall : The main road was turned into a river as cars were swept along. Water at a garage in Burnley Road was estimated to be 10 feet deep.The cellars of about 50 houses in Colne were flooded and water also had to be pumped from mills in Nelson and Earby. Floods caused chaos in Kelbrook with homes flooded and areas up to three feet deep in water. The 4.30pm deluge closed the main Foulridge to Earby road in the village for two hours, with flooding reaching its height near Preston's garage at the New Road junction to Barnoldswick, causing long traffic holdups. Water lifted tarmac and swept away manhole covers in Dotcliffe Road and Main Street.The storm came from the Bury area where the road surface was lifted three feet. It then swept up through Rawtenstall, Crawshawbooth and over in the Earby direction." "Several cars were swept away down the road where the water was two metres deep in places. At a house in Burnley Road the river came over the wall and went through the house after bursting in through the door." "It was amazing how fast the river rose. The culvert and drains just could not take the volume."Wall of water Irwell (Mersey) Rawtenstall at A 681 bridge |
| **10 Jul 1999****COL** | Isolated ThCarnforth > 50 mm in 40 m |  |
| **1 Aug 1999****Lancs Count Publs 6 Aug** | Thunderstormtemperatures soared to the high 80s, | Horwich and Chorley bore the brunt of a deluge which knocked out electricity supplies, flooded buildings and disrupted traffic.Horwich: Waist high flood water poured into a council house in Longworth Road."Within just 10 minutes of rain we were flooded out”.Chorley and Whittle le Woods: Sunday's flash floods which are believed to have caused hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of damage throughout Chorley. Residents on Water Street, Chorley reported cars floating by as the storms raged. Police underwater search teams were even called to Ashby Street on Sunday afternoon as many of the town's roads were submerged, while Brindle Street was also under several feet of water. Several town centre shops were closed on Monday following the floods, and local schools were also affected. Mayfield School suffered more than £50,000 damage, while the Pre-School Centre, Water Street, faces closure if staff are unable to find an alternative home for the nursery by next week. Lightning struck the Baron's Rest pub in Astley Village. A landslide on the Bolton to Preston line at Chorley led to rail service disruption. |
| **14 Aug 1999****COL** | Thunderstorm in a very wet monthHeswall 15 mm in 20 m | Heswall: Worst flooding in centre of town for many years; manhole covers were raised and some roads under 6 inches of water. |
| **4 Jun 2000****Lancs Count Publs 5 Jun** |  | Police and fire crews were inundated with calls as the deluge also struck Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale early yesterday (as well as Todmorden and neighbouring areas in Yorkshire).The Colne to Haworth road was closed for several hours and part of the Padiham-Barrowford by-pass was two feet deep in water and flooding stopped traffic on Keighley Road, Colne.In Barrowford, homes in riverside Sandy Lane, Newbridge, were hit, with two feet of water flowing into ground-floor rooms at 2am. Nelson firefighters pumped out water for four hours. There was also flooding in Romney Avenue, Barrowford. At Whitworth, water from the Irwell swept into houses in Daniel Street, with one cellar five feet deep in water. Fire teams were able to divert the river to prevent it sweeping over the nearby electricity sub-station in a two-hour operation early on Sunday. Houses in Blackburn Road, Haslingden, were hit, with six inches of water flowing into properties. |
| **2 Jul 2000****COL** |  | Slow moving fronts over northern England led to flash floods. At Walney island Cumbria 46 mm fell in 6 hours. (Severe thunderstorms were reported in Chester, Nottingham, Stoke and Derby).Chester: A storm lasting a matter of minutes left more than 50 offices under 3 feet of water. |
| **3 Jul 2000** | Thunderstorms | Wirral: Roads were reported flooded |
| **27 Jul 2000****COL** | Thunderstorm | Wigan: Some flooding reported |
| **21 Aug 2000****COL, Rate of Rise analysis** | ThunderstormBowland 54 mm in 1 h | Ribble at Henthorn had second highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1976 to 2014 of 2.82 m per hour |
| **26 Aug 2000 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Goyt at Marple Bridge had the highest 15 minute rate of rise in level from 1969 to 2014 of 2.97 m/hr (next highest is 1.74 m/hr on 14/8/1980) |
| **28 Aug 2000****COL** | Local thunderstorms in Lancashire and MerseysideSouthport 23 mm |  |
| **29 Sep 2000****COL** | SW Lancashire Wrighington 1 hour thunderstorm |  |
| **17 May 2001****Lancs County Publications 18 May** |  | Oswaldthwistle: Flash floods after a deluge left 20 people homeless on Wordsworth Close. The flooding took hold around 3pm yesterday. At 5.30pm 25 properties were declared unsafe. Families moved out to stay with friends or in temporary accommodation provided by the council. Many other houses in the Thwaites Road area were affected and fire officers were yesterday putting up sandbags. Residents say the area gets flooding because it slopes down towards the White Ash Fields, and drains cannot cope. |
| **6 Jun 2001 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Wyre at Garstang had second highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 3.88 m per hour |
| **3 Jul 2001****COL****Lancs County Publications 9 Jul** | ThunderstormHeswall 1 32.0 in 1 h 35 mSeaton 43.8 in 2 h (Tot. 53.7) | Seaton: Some property flooding.Daubhill: Ten homes in Longfellow Avenuewere swamped with sewage after the downpour caused drains to overflow and the sewer to collapse.Little Hulton: A pub sustained hundreds of pounds worth of damage after its cellar was flooded. At the White Lion Hotel in Manchester road West, the proprietor said the water was up to the top of his legs and the juke box was ruined. Homes in Longfellow Avenue, Over Hulton, Fletcher Street and Windermere Road, Farnworth, and Newearth Road, Walkden, were also hit.Roads in Westhoughton, Farnworth, Walkden and Over Hulton were all hit by floods as drains failed to deal with the downpour. Park Road, a major route into Westhoughton, was brought to a standstill for an hour as drains overflowed to block both carriageways. A manhole cover was knocked out by the force of the water at the junction with Molyneux Road. |
| **7 Aug 2001****COL** | ThunderstormRadcliffe 35.3 | Flooding reported at Congleton (Weaver catchment) with heavy rain at Harriseahead |
| **12 Sep 2001 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Brock u/s A6 had second highest 15 minute rate of rise 1978 to 2014 of 2.27 m per hour |
| **26 May 2002****COL** | Thunderstorm?Oldham 26mm in 2 h |  |
| **14 Jun 2002****COL****Manchester Evg News 15 Jun****Lancs County Publications 18-26 Jun, Rate of Rise analysis** | Daily51.4 Turton (nr Bolton)37.3 Accrington35.6 Burnley33.8 Oldham30.9 Casterton (nr Kirkby Lonsdale)28.0 Standish (nr Wigan)26.7 RadcliffeBolton : 56mm (was recorded in a two-hour period. | During the evening there were reports of torrential, thundery rain in Lancashire, in the Blackburn, Accrington and Ribble Valley areas, that led to localised flooding. The thunderstorms moved NE across NE England later. A slow moving cold front deposited 22.7mm in 1 hour at Radcliffe - resulting in local flooding. Elsewhere flash floods occurred widely from N Manchester to the Ribble valley with 25 - 50mm rain falling in 1-2 hours over a large area. A violent thunderstorm at Burnley led to flash flooding in the area. A severe thunderstorm on the 14th dropped 25mm of rain in the hour 1800-1900 at Oldham. At Turton it was the wettest day on records (1987); 31mm rain fell between 1700-1800h with a heavy thunderstorm. Local flooding occurred and streams bursting their banks, while the local road filled with debris. The local ASDA store closed as floodwaters burst through the store. Some roads were locally impassable. Widespread falls in East Lancashire were reported. At Loveclough (Rossendale) marble-size hail fell and 23mm of rain fell in 1 hour.Manchester: Royal Exchange Theatre was closed due the thunderstorm.MEN notes: An average month's rainfall fell in only two hours in some parts between 4.30 and 6.30pm, leaving standing water up to 3ft deep. On the railways the track between Manchester and Preston blocked for a number of hours by landslides at Adlington and Westhoughton and more flooding. The areas worst hit by flash floods were Bury, Wigan and Bolton, where the Asda store at Horwich was forced to close. The standing water, which in some areas was as deep as 3ft.LEP notes: Darwen, Sunnyhurst Woods: Flash floods left a 40ft by 12ft chasm at the woods, damaged two bridges and washed away all the footpaths. Some 60 tonnes of rubble were washed down on to Sunnyhurst Lane and Borough Road.The repair bill is expected to reach £500,000. Rain started around teatime and lasted for three-quarters of an hour, but left a trail of devastation across the region. In the Ribble Valley, the A59 trunk road was blocked by several feet of water at Sawley, creating major tailbacks, and there were problems in Blackburn, Darwen and Hyndburn. Houses and businesses in Whalley New Road, Blackburn, were among the hardest-hit and residents in Lower Darwen had to evacuate properties where floodwater reached waist level. Flash flooding also hit parts of Burnley and Rossendale. Householders in Oswaldtwistle were affected for the second time in less than two years.Blackburn: The branch of Booker Cash and Carry had to close temporarily when the store in Amberley Street was swamped after the flash floods.Rishton: Residents were left counting the cost of flooding for the fifth time in two years. People in Spring Street were hit during the deluge across East Lancashire last weekend despite flood prevention work six months ago. "It was just like a river coming through the house. It came up to the top of the skirting board and we are in a bit of a mess now."Bury, Ramsbottom was brought to a standstill when Springwood Lodge burst its banks, flooding into Carr Bank Road and cascading down Bridge Street. Water seeped into cottages in Springwood Street, Ramsbottom. Memories in Bridge Street, Ramsbottom was forced to shut off half of his shop on Saturday after mud and water seeped into the store. The water in Bridge St was 3 inches deep but fast flowing. Torrential rain caused traffic chaos as roads became gridlocked throughout the borough, and many commuters took hours to travel home and some were even forced to abandon their cars. Extensive flooding was also reported at Stubbins Street which was closed off after a car broke down and was immersed in water. The notorious Stubbins Bridge was also flooded. Manchester Road, Shuttleworth; Bolton Road West, Ramsbottom; and Greenmount Cricket Club also suffered. Elsewhere in the borough, commuters abandoned their cars on Peel Way and flooding was reported in the Ainsworth area while the pressure of water forced up manhole covers in Manchester Road.Water Street in Radcliffe, and Hilton Lane and Rainsough Brow in Prestwich were also badly affected. At Darcy Lever the River Croal overflowed (said to be the first time in 40 years) causing a heavy flood at Smiths Road, Moses Gate. In Astley Bridge, Berkeley Road was deluged by water. Houses lower down the road were water-logged destroying carpets and electrical appliances and a driveway was uprooted. In Smithills, Arkwrights Ale House and seven cottages were flooded.Five houses in Thorn Well, Westhoughton, were left under three feet of water, destroying carpets and furniture.Bradshaw, Bradshaw Brow: Terrace of houses found their carpets soaked and their electrical equipment dangerously wet.Lostock: In Pocket Nook Road, Lostock, people arrived home to find their houses under eight inches of water. They blamed inadequate draining on a nearby new housing estate and a culvert having burst its banks. The cellar at Lostock Arms was flooded with two-feet of water.Wigan, Lowton: The village was one of the areas worst hit by the heavy rainfall and 150 householders suffered sewage flooding their homes whilst hundreds more faced rapidly rising water levels. The deluge inundated not only the public sewerage system but also the connecting private drains - so that rainwater could not enter the drainage system because it was already full to capacity. Several pumping stations also failed.Darwen at Blue bridge had its second highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 1.95 m per hour |
| **30 Jul 2002****COL****Gt Manchester SFRA Appendix B 2008****Mancherster Evg News 31 Jul & 1 Aug****Rate of Rise analysis** | ThunderstormsTurton 22 mm in 1 hOldham 81.2 | Glossop: The storms caused localised flooding; entry into Glossop was impossible after floods in late afternoon. MEN reports Riverside Cottage Old Glossop was flooded. This was one of several hundred people affected by floods after thunderstorms. The River Etherow burst its banks; drivers were left stranded in the town centre. Several vehicles were washed down the High Street while one car was left leaning upright against the Junction pub at Turnlee Road. Woodhead Road and the A57 at Brookfield and the junction with Primrose Lane in Glossop were closed, but police said the Snake Pass was "passable with care" despite a section of the road being washed away.Stalybridge police station had to be evacuated and five patrol cars in the car park became submerged in water.Oldham: The 30th proved to be the wettest day (81.2mm) since 5.8.1981 (83.0mm). The day was characterised by a series of thunderstorms, which began at 0900h and grew with intensity as the day progressed. The final storm between 1715h and 1800h produced 31mm in just 45 minutes. The observable effects were quite shocking, as you do not expect to see cars being washed down roads with 1 in 7 gradients in hilly areas like Oldham! Many of the drains could not cope and access from the east of the town on many of the main roads was closed for 24 hours after the storms. Flooding between Piccadilly and Stalybridge and at Reddish North caused problems on the railways. These were made worse by a points failure affecting services from Manchester Airport before 8am.Oldham: Properties roads and land flooded from fluvial and surface water.Droylsden: Edge Lane was closed due to flooding.Croal at Farnworth Weir had the highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1976 to 2014 of 1.08m /hour |
| **19 May 2003****COL** | Rochdale 9.8 mm in 1 h | Rochdale: |
| **17 Jul 2003****COL, Rate of Rise analysis** | Heswall 2 34.4 | Heswall 2: 31.4C on 16th is the highest July temperature since 3.7.1976, and the highest for any month since 3.8.1990. Rainfall was the greatest daily July fall since 15.7.1973. There were very close lightning strikes to earth in the evening of the 16th - one strike at 1920h was the closest for many years and struck some 25m to NW; only 3mm of rain fell from this heat-induced storm.Roch at Albert Royds bridge had second highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1999 to 2012 of 1.68 m per hour (Rank 1 was 2.81 m/hrPendle Water at Barden Lane had highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1976 to 2014 of 3.14 m per hour. |
| **10 Aug 2003****COL** |  | Heswall 1: A brief heavy thunderstorm in the morning with 9mm of rain in 6 minutes around 0930h with further showers later.Heswall 2: 32.2C on the 9th was the highest temperature for any month since 3.8.1990. A dramatic thunderstorm early on the 10th moving from the SW accompanied by severe squalls; exceptionally frequent lightning and near continuous thunder. Storm lasted from 0700GMT to 0745GMT, with about 10mm of rain in 8 minutes at the peak, being driven horizontally in squalls. There was a further, much less intense storm from 0815GMT to 0900GMT although it was still overhead.Turton: Heavy thunderstorm 0900-1100h on the 10th produced 20mm rain, with some local damage due to lightning strike. |
| **21 Jun 2004****COL** |  | Buxton Derbyshire: A severe storm with hail and thunder produced 32.4mm of hail in about one hour. The hail lay to a depth of 3cm, and caused serious damage to the potato and sugar beet crops, shredding their leaves. It was still lying in patches the next day. The surface wind was easterly as the storm approached from the west. Lightning was flashing every 10 seconds and the thunder was continuous. |
| **3 Aug 2004****Manchester Evg News 4 Aug****Cheshire County Publ 11 Aug, Rate of Rise analysis** | Said to be a weather system sweeping up from SpainRochdale 23.5 mm in 1 h | Altringham: Forty homes were flooded when sewers burst notably in Brunswick Street and Bridgewater Street.Heywood: In Pilsworth Road floods were 3 feet deep after the drainage system collapsed. More than 20 houses were affected. The fire station was hit by a flash flood and firemen had to pump it out.Rochdale: the Bamfor area many residents experienced flooding.Flooding was also reported at Bolton Oldham and Rochdale.15-year-old Adam Charlotte after he was swept away during a flash flood in the River Bollin at Dunham Massey. The water had risen from its usual depth of 4ft to 12ft.Northwich: A downpour wreaked havoc for households and businesses in Northwich. Shops in the town centre were forced to close and roads turned into rivers on Tuesday, as Northwich experienced some of its heaviest rainfall in years. Shops on High Street, Northwich were affected and Sarnies, Vision Express and Holland and Barrett had to close because of flooding. According to the fire service, Whitegate, Hartford, Cuddington and Davenham were some of the worst affected areas in the county. At Moss Lane, Cuddington water levels had reached around 30in by 10am Davenham was awash with water and two cottages on Church Street experienced floods of almost 2ft.Irwell at Manchester Racecourse had second highest 15 minute rate of rise from 2003 to 2014 of 1.36 m per hour |
| **10 Aug 2004 CBHE (Lancashire Evening Telegraph, Wednesday 11th Aug 2004)** | The downpours, which first began Monday night 9th, prompted the Environment Agency to place much of East Lancashire on 'flood watch' | <Colne>: Homes in Southfield Terrace and Laneshawbridge were severely flooded around 6am yesterday when water ran off nearby fields. Firefighters used a mechanical digger to create a dam and channel the water away and spent most of the day pumping flooded cellars....The Clitheroe to Blackburn [rail] line was swamped at Wilpshire Tunnel and at Brownhill, while the East Lancashire line was also closed between Blackburn and Preston due to running flood water, delaying local and Transpennine Express services. At Lostock Hall trains stopped after the whole line was submerged. A spokesman for Network Rail, said: "A train was stopped at Wilpshire Tunnel after the driver reported running flood water on the line. <Blackburn>: The manager and regulars at the Brownhill Arms, in Whalley New Road, saved the pub from severe damage by activating flood barriers. The pub has experienced problems with flooding for a number of years as the drainage pipe under the road is not adequate for the amount of rainfall. Thwaites brewery recently had the flood boards installed......if it wasn't for the flood defences the water would have caused thousands of pounds in damage." On the A666 in <Wilpshire>, water running down steep side streets flooded the road and nearby gardens, while the Oakes Bridge, in Ribchester Road, Clayton-le-Dale, flooded when drains became blocked. Police were called to direct traffic through the water. Both the River <<Ribble>>, near Ribchester and Low Moor, Clitheroe, and the Hodder at Whalley threatened to burst their banks as water flowed in off surrounding fields. Mersey at Ashton Weir had its second highest 15 minute rate of rise 1976 to 2014 of 1.60 m per hour |
| **12 Aug 2004****Lancs County Publications 20 Aug** |  | Brinscall: Flash floods left houses under water in School Lane after an hour-long downpour on Thursday, August 12.Flash floods left a trail of devastation.Entwhistle Reservoir: Rangers say boulders the size of cars left 15ft craters in the ground near Entwistle Resevoir. And many bridges linking popular walkways were ripped up by the force of the water. Heavy rains last Thursday night brought water cascading down Cadshaw Valley and into the resevoir. The torrential downpour caused a stream to burst its banks and spark a mini-landslide. Trees were uprooted and footpaths across the West Pennine moors, near Rivington, were wiped out.Bolton: It was hit by flash floods when rain poured off the moors into Egerton and Belmont. The Cross Guns Inn pub was flooded. Firefighters were also called to flash floods in residential streets in Radcliffe and Ainsworth, Bury.Warrington: Gardens were flooded in Pyecroft Close and Brook Way, Great Sankey; Densham Avenue, Longford; Withers Avenue and Smith Drive, Orford; and streets around Penketh, Appleton and Hatton. |
| **19/20 Aug 2004****COL****Gt Manchester SFRA Appendix B 2008** |  | Heswall 1: 19th Very heavy rain without thunder for 25 minutes around 1000h; nearly all the day's 26.7mm of rainfell during this time. Heswall 2: 20th - 20mm in 30 minutes in the morning with the worst local flooding seen since moving here in 1970. Fire brigade called out to 50-60cm deep floods on local roads and my garden was under water for several days afterwards, probably as much as a result of previous severe saturation as much as anything.Galgate, Near Lancaster: 20th - The River Condor burst it's banks after more than 25mm fell at nearby Hazelrigg between 0345GMT and 0500GMT, from a slow-moving storm. At the peak of the storm about 9mm fell in ten minutes.Oldham: What will almost certainly be the warmest day of the year (8th - 28.0C) was followed by what will probably be the wettest day of the year (9th - 60.5mm). The 30-hour total from 0700h on the 9th was 79.0mm. The daily total for the 9th was the fourth highest total on record (1978). The night of the 8th/9th was the warmest night on record, with the temperature failing to fall below 20.1C. Flooding of homes occurred at Royton and Irk.Bury Ramsbottom: Homes and a pub floodedManchester: Flooding occurred at Chorlton Brook, Manchester University and Fallowfield where homes and halls of residence were flooded.Bolton: Flash floods hit many parts of Bolton leaving motorists stranded in several feet of water. In one 30 minute period at Egerton and Belmont, water poured off the moor like waterfalls flooding local pubs and home. The water level was so high at one point that the A666 was closed near the Turton and Entwistle reservoir because it was covered in five feet of water. |
| **25 Aug 2004****Lancs County Publications 26 Aug** |  | Since early August, East Lancashire has been hit by a series of sudden, snap deluges lasting just a couple of hours, which have left homes and businesses up to five feet under water. Yesterday's floods in Brownhill, Wilpshire and Ribchester were the fifth serious night of floods this month. Bolton-by-Bowland, Sawley, Clitheroe, Darwen, Oswaldtwistle, Great Harwood, Rishton, Laneshawbridge, Earby, Colne, Waterfoot and Cowpe had previously been affected as drains failed to cope with the volume of water. On the Brookside Industrial Estate, staff at MD Furniture, in Vine Mill, were cleaning up after their second flood in three weeks. |
| **2 May 2005****COL** | Heswall: 8 mm in 10 m | In N England thunderstorms resulted in a tornado at Hoghton (Lancashire) with 30 houses being damaged. There were also reports of flooding on the M60 in Greater Manchester. |
| **21 May 2005****COL** | Neston Wirral: 10 mm in 45 m (Tot 15.1) | Neston: There was an afternoon thunderstorm with torrential and hail. A house, about 1.5km away, was struck by lightning with considerable damage. There were many close lightning strikes and some very large bangs, and also some local flooding. Water was coming out of the drains with considerable force, and there were piles of hail everywhere. |
| **25 Jun 2005****Lancs county Publications Bolton** | Thunderstorm Temperature reached 28C. | Bolton, Bromley Cross: Hailstones ‘half an inch wide’ battered the area in mid afternoon. The storm brought flooding to parts of Bolton and visibility on the local motorway was down to 5 metres. Chorley New Road was awash.[Severe flooding reported in North Yorkshire – River Rye]. |
| **12 May 2006****COL** |  | Around lunchtime there was a very severe storm near Manchester Airport with darkness, severe lightning, large hail and flooding. |
| **2 Jul 2006****COL****Gt Manchester SFRA Appendix B 2008****Manchester Evg news 4 Jul, Rate of rise analysis** | Oldham 49 mm in 1 h 15 m | Large hail and flooding was reported in Lancashire and Cheshire. Houses were set alight by lightning and a funnel cloud was seen near Manchester. At Oldham the observer counted over 100 fork lightning strikes. On the M62, one strike caused a tree to explode, blocking both carriageways of the motorway.In Wigan, one house was known to have been struck by lightning and the town's fire service took 70 emergency calls in just 30 minutes. Manchester was hit by torrential downpours and flash flooding which closed two lanes of the M60 motorway and damaged homes. A Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue service spokesman said it had received more than 630 calls in four hours; in the Irlam area, fire-fighters rescued a 90-year-old man and six other people from twocars after they became trapped in water 4ft deep.Bury Ainsworth: Basements and gardens were flooded from surface water.Gorton: Wright Robinson High School was hit during a fierce thunderstorm.Roch at Littleborough had highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2012 of 1.68 m per hourRoch at Albert Royds bridge had highest 15 minute rate of rise 1999 to 2012 of 2.81 m per hourIrk at Collyhurst weirhad highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1995 to 2014 of 1.52 m per hour |
| **4 Jul 2006****COL****Cheshire and Manchester Publ 6 Jul** | Warrington 50 mm in 1 hRadcliffe: 15mm in 15 m  | Warrington during The storm appeared very localised but many of the roads were 2 feet deep in water and the nearby M6 was closed by of flooding for two hours.Heswall: 30-minute thunderstorm with hail around 1400GMT. 11mm of precipitation reported in nearby Fazackerley.Lymm: It may have been the hottest few days of the year, but villagers in Lymm were left under inches of water on Sunday. The village was struck with a flash flood on Sunday evening following a violent rainstorm. Eagle Brow was left under several inches of water while surrounding roads were also affected. |
| **2 Sep 2006****COL** | Coniston 68.7Grasmere 52.4Grizedale 49.5Ambleside 48.3Windermere 41.4 | A depression centre crossed the British Isles across Northern Ireland and N England on the 2nd, with widespread rain to the S as a result.No thunder was reported. Elsewhere in the N rain lasted 6 hours and reached an intensity of 17.5 mm in an hour at Pateley Br. |
| **12 Jun 2007****COL****Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Torrential rain and thunderstorms were reported across parts of Lancashire and Cheshire.Bela at Beetham had its highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2014 of 0.58 m hour (not a significant amount!) |
| **15 Jun 2007****COL** | Fleetwood 30-40 mm in 3 h (Tot 58 mm) | Fleetwood: West of the Pennines rainfall totals were lighter on the 15th than in Yorkshire and some other areas but Fleetwood had a very heavy cell.  |
| **17 Jul 2007****COL****Gt Manchester SFRA Appendix B 2008** |  | Heswall 1: The most notable feature of the month was a heavy storm on the 17th. Heavy thunder was reported over central Birkenhead and the centre of the heavy rainfall (judging by the very dark clouds) appeared to be several miles N of Heswall. Flooding was reported at Greasby, 4 miles to the N.Bury Summerseat: Roads and gardens were flooded from surface water |
| **23 Jul 2007****COL****Lancaster Guardian 26 Jul** | Intense rain for 45 minutes | Morecambe: Minor flooding in the town on the evening of the 23rd when 35.6mm fell in two hours at the official station.Lancaster: A flash flood struck homes in Willow Lane on the Marsh at around 5.30pm and blocked drains struggled to cope. The road was blocked off from Coronation Field along to Wharfedale Road and round to Forrest Park. Willow Lane resident James Mawson said: "It came through the back door. The Stonewell Tavern was left in a couple of feet of water. Lancaster Goji restaurant (formerly Ask) had been open for business just four nights before the flood hit. |
| **26 Jul 2007 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Wyre at Scorton Lane had second highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2014 of 1.00 m per hour |
| **19 Sep 2007 Rate of Rise analsysis** |  | Ribble at Arnford had second highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2014 of 1.28 m per hour |
| **4 May 2008 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Wistation Brook at Marshfield Bridge had its highest 15 m Rate of rise 1971 to 2014 of 0.61 m |
| **10 May 2008****Daily Post Liverpool 12 May** |  | Merseyside: At Shortwood Road, Dovecot, 10 houses were overwhelmed with contaminated flood water gushing up from drains and through homes. The main problem was with road flooding and the airport terminal building. |
| **26 Jun 2008****COL, Rate of rise analysis** | Timperley 37.6Heswall 1 25.9Todmorden 34.9Rochdale 73.3 (9h)Accrington Torrential rain for five minutes at 1405h on the 26th.Radcliffe: 56.4 in 12 hBreightmet 52.2 (mainly 14.50 to 21.10) | Roch at Littleborough had second ighest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2012 of 0.99 m per hour (Rank 1 was 1.68 m/hr) |
| **10 Jul 2008 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Dane at Hug Bridge had its highest 15 minute rate of rise in level in 15 m of 2.45 m per hour 2003 to 2014 but Q at Hug bridge from 1992 to2014 has highest on 6/8/96 |
| **2 Sep 2008****COL** | Timperley 15m thunderstorm with hail 5-7mm diameter |  |
| **5 Sep 2008****COL****Liverpool Echo Sep 6** | Puddington, Wirral 56.7Timperley 45.015mm of rain fell over Moreton in an hour. | Heswall 1: Notable wet spell on 5th and 6th; flooding occurred in several parts of the Wirral where brooks overflowed.Merseyside: It was hit by severe flooding as torrential rain fell across the region, homes were evacuated and there were a series of traffic accidents as 15mm of rain fell in just one hour. Wirral was particularly badly hit. In Greasby, elderly residents of sheltered housing bungalows were evacuated after flood water poured into their homes. Schools in the Prenton were flooded. Cheshire police said flooding had also been bad in the Ellesmere Port and Ne-ston areas. |
| **9 Sep 2008****COL** |  | Morecambe: 33.4mm of rain fell on the 9th, 90% of which was concentrated between 1745h and 1852h. This was a localised downpour which caused flooding in the vicinity of the official weather station. |
| **19 May 2009****COL** | Timperley Thunderstorm 1320-13.50At least 10mm of the day's 14mm rain estimated to have fallen during this period. | Timperley had a thunderstorm 1320-1350h which produced a probable lightning strike on Altrincham bus/rail interchange in whose car park the observer was trapped at the time! Stanton had a moderate intensity thunderstorm during the afternoon, with lighting strikes very close to the station. Harriseahead, had thunder 1250-1405h with a discharge rate of one per 10 minutes at the peak (around 1300h). |
| **15 Jun 2009****COL****St Helens Star****16 Jun** | Thunderstorm |  Torrential downpours led to the closure of roads in St Helens in the afternoon.St Helens: Worst-hit was Boundary Road which was left under several feet of water and had to be closed by highway chiefs for hours. Some cars and vans became swamped. A Community Centre was struck by lightning. Other areas to be affected included Moss Bank, where the library was closed and Millbrook Lane in Eccleston. Water swept down from the Ecclesfield area down to Millbrook Lane. |
| **18 Jun 2009****COL** |  | Timperley: During a thunderstorm 2035-2100GMT a house in nearby Bowdon was badly damaged by fire after a lightning strike according to the local paper.  |
| **27 Jun 2009****COL** |  | Huncoat: A rainstorm caused flash floods locally. This very localised downpour started around 1600h and lasted just over an hour. At the height of the storm roads and properties were flooded and drains became fountains. I know from being out and about that Accrington, Blackburn and Clayton (8km radius) were badly affected whilst nearby Huncoat and the Ribble Valley stayed relatively dry. At Huncoat I only measured 6.4mm but under a mile towards the town centre two rainguages reported 46.7mm and 34.3mm. |
| **28 Jun 2009****COL** |  | Timperley: Although only a light shower occurred at the station around 1300GMT we experienced flash flooding in the Wilmslow area and heard thunder at Pott Shrigley in the hills of east Cheshire. |
| **30 Jun 2009****COL** | Thunderstorm | Puddington 10.2 mm (25% of month’s fall) |
| **8 Jul 2009****COL** |  | Acton, Nantwich: On the 8th the rainfall total was 48.3mm; 43.0mm of the rain fell in one hour. |
| **19 Jul 2009****COL** |  | Smallwood, Sandbach: 1-min rainfall rate of 76mm/h, 11.4mm in 15 minutes on 19th |
| **1 May 2010****COL** |  | Morecambe: 26.9mm of rain fell between 1600h and 2000h with over 10mm falling in the 30 minutes ending 1800h. The downpour was localised with places 12km away recording only 6mm. |
| **20 Jul 2010****COL****Liverpool Echo 21 Jul****Daily Post Jul 21** | Puddington Wirral 57.2Liverpool Hunts cross 60.9Heswall 1 33.030mm of rain fell in Crosby in the 24 hours before 6am | Puddington: It was the highest one day total since I started taking readings on the Wirral in 1957. Between 1130GMT and 1200GMT rain was falling at the rate of 40mm/h. There were several other less intense downpours during the rest of the day.TORRENTIAL downpours and flash flooding brought Merseyside to a standstill and left hundreds of residents fearing for their homes. Huge parts of Liverpool were under water yesterday, with many main roads closed and schools across the city forced to send children home early. Floods forced the closure of the Seaforth flyover. Routes such as Allerton Road, Queens Drive at Childwall Fiveways and Aigburth Road were cut off by floodwaters. Other areas hit hard were Alexandra Drive, Aigburth, where wheelie bins and rubbish were left floating in the middle of the street, and Melwood Drive, West Derby, which trapped motorists when a miniroundabout was submerged. Many householders reported rapidly rising water levels outside their homes |
| **12 Aug 2010****COL** | The presence of low pressure, and its attendant cold pool, over northeast Britain resulted in a crop of thunderstorms developing out of showers during the day. | The main activity was over northern and eastern England. Persistently recurring storms around the southern Pennines led to 45mm of rain at Woodford (southeast of Manchester), and flooding affected the adjacent Bramhall area. |
| **23 Sep 2010****COL** | Sandbach Smallwood 9.4 mm in 15 m with hail |  |
| **10 Jul 2011****COL****Lancs Telegraph Jul 28** |  | Huncoat Nelson: Up to 90mm of rain may have fallen 7 miles away in Nelson during a very localised storm around 1200h. This was according to a nonstandard gauge and accounts of a prolonged downpour with roads awash even though local newspapers did not report any storms or flash floods. At Huncoat I recorded 7.8mm whilst at Higham 4 miles closer to Nelson recorded 13.2mm, Other trusted sources reported widespread heavy rain over the entire Ribble and Pendle Valleys).Nelson: The Post Office was flooded said to be due to a blocked drain |
| **8 Aug 2011 Manchester Evg News** | ThunderstormManchester 0.50 ins in 30 minsThe worst weather was further north in Cumbria | Oldham: flooding occurred at Old Lane Scouthead.Mossley: A lightning bolt hit the roof of a semi-detached house in Roaches Way, Mossley.  |
| **10 Aug 2011 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Ribble at Arnford had highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2014 of 1.31 m per hour |
| **6 sep 2011****COL** | A heatwave heralded the end of a mixed month with 170mm of rain falling, 177% of the average. | Morecambe: The local press reported flooding around the district after the downpours of the 5th/6th. |
| **17 Sep 2011****COL** |  | Morecambe: The most noteworthy rainfall was 17th when 49.2mm was recorded. Most of that fell between 0300h and 0900h that day when Lancaster University recorded 34.8mm for the period.  |
| **14/15 May 2012****COL** |  | Puddington S Wirral: (14) Heavy storm between 1735 -1800 h with much hail; most of it greater than 10 mm in size.Timperley (15) - Heavy hail shower 1235-1250 GMT produced stones of up to 8 mm diameter. 25th -  |
| **22 Jun 2012****COL****Manchester Evg News 30 Jun/13 Jul Rate of Rise analysis** | Bolton le sands 56.0 (rain persistent from 7 am till after midnight.Huncoat 73.0Oldham 50.2Rochdale 44.5 | Bolton le Sands: 56.0 mm of rain, and some violent swings on the rainfall chart recorder. It represented the wettest June day since my records began (1992), The high level of rainfall rate and high winds at the same time left a substantial amount of debris (mainly leaves and broken branches) in the roads and elsewhere. There was much standing water around, with minor flooding in the usual local places. Huncoat: 22nd - 73.0 mm rainfall was my wettest June day in 39 years.Crawshawbooth: Nearly 100 properties were flooded in Crawshawbooth when rainfall of 80 to 100 mm was experienced. More than 40 tonnes of silt were removed from the Follyclough Brook bu EA staff on July 6 in advance of further heavy rain. Hemshore in Rossendale: A homeowner referred to severe road flooding. They were told by the EA ‘it was the wrong type of flood. They only deal with where rivers are breached. Because ours was coming from a mountain’.Whitworth: At Whitworth's swimming pool rainfall caused the baths to fill with water and six inches of sludge.Dozens of homes in Salford and Prestwich faced huge clean-up bills after being swamped with water.Wyre at St Michaels not liste Rank 1-5 for H but Rank 1 for Flow 1976 to 2014 |
| **28 Jun 2012****Lancs Telegraph 30 Jun, Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Darwen: A downpour on Thursday (28th) saw roads once again turned into rivers, while homes and businesses fought against the incoming torrents.“The initial flooding was caused by a bockage in a culvert, where the River Darwen runs in a tunnel for more than 500m. Heavy showers led to surface water flooding in Blackburn Road where some properties were affected.”Darwen at Ewood bridge had second highest 15 minute rate of rise of rise 1976 to 2014 of 3.00 m per hour.Wyre at Scorton Weir had highest 15 minute rate of rise 2003 to 2014 of 1.08 m per hour  |
| **5 Jul 2012 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Hindburn at Wray had its highest 15 minute rate of rise from 2003 to 2014 of 3.53 m per hour (Lune) |
| **4-6 Aug 2012****COL****Manchester Evg News 6/7/10 Aug** | Met office forecaster said ‘The radar did show a very narrow core of torrential rain. Unfortunately it was so narrow, it was not picked up by any of our rain gauges."We would estimate it could have been something like 10 to 15mm of rain, which is not a huge amount in itself."But what causes the damage is the intensity. If it all comes down in 15 minutes it is too much for the drains to deal with.The storm was accompanied by lightning and hail | Morecambe: 4th-6th - Sporadic showery, torrential rain fell in the NW during this period. One of the areas worst affected was Glasson Dock where a total of 75.5 mm fell over the two days. Local press reports stated that rainwater ran down hills and into the cellars and garages of low-lying houses overnight on the Saturday and Sunday. One resident reported 0.5 metres of water in his garage. The downpours were very localised as 5 km away LancasterUniversity reported only 33.9 mm of rain in the same period.Manchester: Devastating flash floods hit Greater Manchester. The worst-hit areas were Prestwich, Whitefield and parts of Salford, where houses and cars were flooded. Residents on Albert Road in Whitefield had to be helped out of their homes by rescue boats after being swamped by two feet of water. Around 50 homes were flooded and a couple had to be rescued from a car which had become partially submerged in the road.Another 17 houses were flooded on Butterstile Lane, Prestwich, with residents having to be carried to safety via boat.Crews with lifeboats were also called to waterlogged spots on Sheepfoot Lane and Carr Avenue in Prestwich. At one point, the water at Butterstile Close, Prestwich, was waist height and one resident's car floated from her drive.Bury: The council said it was aware of 10 people who were evacuated from their homes.Parts of the M60 were shut because of the extreme conditions.Bacup: Flash floods wreaked havoc (MEN). More than 20 tonnes of debris had to be removed from streets after water swept down from hillside lanes towards the town centre. Pubs in the centre of Bacup closed after water filled their cellars and a takeaway was also flooded. Farmer Jim Laycock, who has run Tong Farm and Tong Quarry for the past 35 years, cleared 20 tonnes of debris from the junction of Pennine Road and Tong Lane after the 30- minute downpour. He said: "I have lived in Bacup for 50 years and I have never seen rain like it. "The lanes near us and other farms just turned into rivers and washed all the debris down them towards the centre of Bacup. It was like a torrent. "Somehow the houses at the bottom of our lane didn't flood which was lucky."Irwell at Irwell vale Highest rate of rise in 15 minutes from 1996 to 2014 of 2.45 m per hour |
| **13 Aug 2012****Liverpool Post 14 Aug** |  | Firemen dealt with incidents in Wirral and Sefton where drainage systems failed to cope with the torrential conditions. In Formby, a house in Gores Lane was damaged by two to three inches of flood water. The occupants said they had not seen flooding like that for around 30 years. A house was flooded to a depth of 6 inches in Leasowe Road, Leasowe. A brook overflowed at Rylands Hey, Greasby causing house flooding. |
| **21 Aug 2012 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Irwell at Bury Grounds had the highest 15 minute rate of rise in 15 minutes from 1995 to 2014 of 3.44 m/hr (possible error). 15 and 30 m rises in Q of 60.3 and 84.6 cumecs.(Also high rate of rise on 18 Aug (2nd highest) |
| **25 Aug 2012 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Hodder at Hodder Place had highest 15 minute rate of rise from 1976 to 2014 of 3.2 m per hourHindburn at Wray had its 4th highest 15 minute rate of rise from 2003 to 2014 of 1.79 m/hour |
| **30 Aug 2012 Manchester Evg News 30 Aug** | Nearly 25 mm fell at Davyhulme in under an hour. Hulme 17.6 mm in 1 h | Greater Manchester: Trafford ' particularly Urmston, Flixton, Irlam and Partington ' bore the brunt of the storm as thunder, lightning and hail brought chaos to the region. Incidents were predominantly in the Urmston and Partington areas, including localised flooding putting property and lives at risk. There were several reports of flooding in Urmston ' in Sunningdale Road, Princess Road, Moorside Road, Wharfside Way and Sumner Way.In Davyhulme, Highfield Drive was hit and Westmorland Road, Urmston, also flooded. There were delays on the M60 in Chadderton and near the Trafford Centre. There were also delays to train services between Manchester and Huddersfield following flooding near Mossley near Hyde. |
| **16 Sep 2012 Rate of Rise analysis** |  | Wyre at St Michaels is Rank 4 for 15 m and not listed for 30 m;  |
| **24-25 Sep 2012** | The period 23 to 25 had heavy persistent rain with totals approaching 100 mm  | Oldham, Moorside: 23rd-26th - In the 60 hours from 7.00 pm on the 23rd until 7.00 am on the 26th, 90.1 mm rain fell in what appeared to be a continuous fall.Radcliffe: 24th – 25th - The 48 hour rainfall total was 70.1 mm (39.7 mm and 30.4 mm respectively). This is a new all-time high 48 hour rainfall total since local records began in 1983 and the second time this year that a 48 hour rainfalltotal of 60 mm has been exceeded (61.8 mm 21.06.2012-22.06.2012). |
| **11 Oct 2012****Manchester Evg News 17 Oct & 14 Nov** |  | Macclesfield, Sutton: The Fools Nook Inn on London Road was submerged under two feet of water. Barrels were floating around the cellar which was left waterlogged, and electrical equipment and stocks of beer were ruined. The flood was caused by an overflowing stream and drains off Radcliffe Road.Bollington: Firefighters had to help pump water from a house in Princess Street. |
| **14 Jun 2013****COL** | Thunderstorms developed out of an area of rain as it moved northeast across central England in the afternoon – mainly affecting the west and north Midlands, parts of Lancashire, Merseyside and GreaterManchester, and Lincolnshire and Humberside. It was connected to a small cold pool running northeastwards ahead of the next frontal system from the Atlantic. | Nothing mentioned of detail in station notes.Nothing on flooding in Lancashire newspapers |
| **28 Jul 2013 Rate of rise analysis** |  | Etherow at Compstall had the highest 15 minute rate of rise in level of 1.60 m/hour from 2003 to 2014 |
| **30 Jul 2013****Manchester Evg News 30 Jul****Lancs telegraph 31 Jul** |  | CHEETHAM HILL 16 shops were forced to shut at the Manchester Fort shopping centre because of flash flooding.Shawforth in Rossendale was also affected by flash floods on Monday night and firefighters were called to six homes in Edgemoor Close which needed pumping out at around 5.45pm.Bacup: Pioneer Health Studio in Bacup was hit by floods again on Monday after suffering more than £15,000 of damage in the early hours of Sunday. |
| **19 Jul 2014****COL** |  | West Kirby: Wirral received the dying remnants of imported overnight storms from France in the morning, but in the late afternoon, 2 km away, a developing cumulonimbus cell overhead gave torrential rain in West Kirby for 15-20 mins - (just after the close of play at the adjacent Hoylake Open). Local flash flooding on side streets observed. Just 5 mm of rain recorded back home. |
| **10 Aug 2014****COL****Bolton News 11 Aug** | Heswall 9 mm in 13 m 24 mm in 35 m) | No other stations reported significant rainfall.The tail end of ex-hurricane Bertha slammed into the UK on Sunday, bringing with it heavy rains and strong winds as a severe weather warning was placed over all of the UK. The main brunt of the storm arrived at 3am yesterday morning. |
| **1 Jul 2015****COL** |  | A thunderstorm developed near Shrewsbury around sunset and grew into a major storm that affected Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire and Cumbria towards midnight.Lancashire newspapers had no reports of flooding. |
| **10 Aug 2014 COL** |  | <Heswall> (Wirrall): There was a fierce 35 minute rainstorm which struck at 9.45 pm on the 10th, only some 4 hours after an uneventful ex-hurricane Bertha had cleared away. I measured 9 mm rain during the last 13 minutes of the storm, which followed even heavier rain in the first 22 minutes- I estimate 24 mm fell altogether. This is not far from the 25.4 mm in 30 minutes recorded at the one-time Bidston observatory back in 1959, on 9th August that year, a 'noteworthy fall'. However, what was also unique was the very high wind from the WNW which accompanied the storm, which subsided immediately the rain ceased. There were only 2 peals of thunder; also a brief fall of hail in the middle of the storm. |
| **14 Aug 2015****COL** | Heavy rain was forecast but no flood reports were found in papers | Timperley: Extremely heavy and persistent rain in the morning totalled 38.1 mm between 0705 and 1110 GMT. The daily total of 39.3 mm was the highest in August records (1989) and the highest for any month since September 2012. |
| **22 Aug 2015 COL****The Visitor Morecambe 25 Aug****Lancahire Telegraph 24 Aug** | Thunderstorms | The storms were particularly severe over northern England, with torrential rain, hail, and frequent thunder and lightning. Lightning set fire to houses at Oswaldtwistle, near Accrington, and Calderbridge (west Cumbria), and a restaurant at South Shields, and flooding affected various districts.Heswall 1: moderate thunderstorms in the evening were severe locally but not in Heswall. Morecambe: Crews were called to properties including Parliament Street, Morecambe; Fairfield Road, Heysham; Albert Road, Morecambe; Oxcliffe Grove, Heysham; Westborough Close, Heysham; Heysham Road, Heysham; and Westminster Road, Morecambe.Residents in Colne, Earby and Barnoldswick reported flooding issues, while takeaways in Blackburn also had problems. A flood warning was issued by the Environment Agency to police and residents for the River Aire in Barnoldswick on Saturday night, but the deluge of rain caused only small pockets of localised water inundation of premises. The residents of a property in Skipton Road in Earby had to call the fire service at 9pm after flooding affected its electrics. At 8.40pm on Saturday fire crews were called to a property on Curzon Street, Colne where water seeped into the electrical system.  |
| **31 Aug 2015****COL****Liverpool Echo Sep 3** | Heswall 27.2 in 1 h | Heswall: 31st to 2nd Sep- exceptional heavy rain and floods in the Wirral. In the 36 hours from 1053 GMT on the 31st to around 1100 GMT on the 2nd, 97.3 mm of rain fell at Heswall station. The first 'storm' gave 27.2 mm in 60 minutes from 1053 GMT as the rain soon became torrential. This was then followed by 6 hours of moderate to heavy rainfall, resulting in a further 12.2 mm. Quite a number of households in lower-lying areas had possessions ruined, with the worst affected areas being in a part of Moreton in north Wirral where the Birket brook overflowed. People there said the floods were the worst in lifetime memories. In an incident in mid-Wirral some people had to be rescued from their car and in another a man was rescued by an inflatable boat.Torrential rain early yesterday morning burst the banks of the River Birket, River Fender Greasby Brook and Prenton Brook and Arrowe Brook, causing chaos on Wirral's roads and forcing families to flee their homes. Moreton bore the brunt of the flooding, with Carnoustie Close, Oakham Drive, and Tern Way among the worst-affected roads. A bungalow on Wastdale Drive, Moreton was reported flooded. Moreton councillor Chris Blakeley said the floods were the worst he could remember. He said: "I've lived in Moreton since 1982 and I've never seen flooding quite as bad as this. Flash flooding also forced the closure of the Spital Road/Bromborough Road roundabout in Bromborough, Arrowe Road in Greasby, Saughall Massie Road, Saughall Massie and Millhouse Lane, in Moreton. Twenty-eight homes owned by housing association Magenta Living were affected and tenants who are not staying with friends or relatives have been put up in temporary accommodation for a second night. |
| **9 Jun 2016 Manchester Evg News 9 Jun** | Thunderstorm | Greater Manchester: Middleton Shopping Centre and Middleton Arena were forced to close when flood water seeped into the buildings as heavy rain lashed the town. The fire service pumped out the entrance and several ground floor shops. Part of the M62 was closed for a time at Rochdale, while motorists on the M60 faced delays at Chadderton when rainwater collected at junction 22. Near North Manchester Hospital serious flooding occurred along Charlestown Road, Crumpsall.  |
| **17 Jun 2016****Manchester Evg News 17 Jun** |  | Manchester: Parts of the city centre were flooded with rain water after torrential downpours struck during rush hour.One of the worst affected areas was outside Debenhams department store and Primark, on Market Street, where shoppers, football fans and workers trawled through more than a foot of water. Flood water also seeped into the ground floor of Harvey Nichols where staff have been forced to clear the shelves of expensive stock. There was also heavy rain and flooding around Victoria Station, outside the Printworks and close to the NOMA development on Dantzic Street. |
| **13 Sep 2016****Manchester Evg News 15 Sep****Lancs telegraph 15 Sep, COL** | Thunderstorm‘The equivalent of half a month's rain fell in just one hour during last Tuesday's storm.’Bands of violent thunderstorms, with heavy hail in places, moved northwards over southwest and central southern England, south and east Wales and much of the Midlands, Pennines and Lancashire. There were many reports of flash flooding, houses and other buildings were struck by lightning | Greater Manchester: The region was battered with two weeks' worth of rain in just one hour, with flooding hitting scores of residents and businesses. Fire crews received almost 200 calls as floods and lightning caused havoc. Shop owners in Bramhall, Stockport - which was left 'looking like Venice' - were assessing the damage yesterday morning after the area was deluged with water gushing into shops. Costa Coffee and The Mounting Stone pub were shut following the storm. Bramhall high street was left with floods at least a foot deep. Traders at Longsight Business Park off Hamilton Road say stock worth an estimated £1.5m was ruined when foul water cascaded into the units. "All 37 units were affected. There were no sandbags and the drains had not been cleaned out”. The Airport was unable to accept incoming flights for a short time, and Manchester Metrolink was completely suspended. Market Street was transformed into a river and flash floods affected various other parts of the city. Manchester City's UEFA Champions League match was called off shortly before it was due to start because the roads and walkways around the stadium were flooded. The Vanarama League matches at Macclesfield and Stockport suffered the same fate because their pitches were under water. 32 mm of rain fell in an hour at Prestbury, whilst there were reports of large hailstones damaging roofs and car windscreens in the Peak District and Sheffield and Barnsley areas,Earby: Flash flooding inundated around 40 homes and businesses after torrential rain caused a river to burst its banks for the second time in nine months. Witnesses said water levels at around 7pm on Tuesday in Earby were about four to five feet, even higher than similar flooding on Boxing Day, as 35mm of rain fell in less than an hour. More than 10 people were carried from the Madras Indian restaurant to safety at the height of the deluge and the town’s bus station was also under feet of water. The flood occurred when Earby Beck breached its banks, despite high flood protection walls surrounding it. The proprietor of S&B Fruits grocery shop, on Water Street said: “It’s the fifth time my shop has been flooded since 2004 but I’ve never seen the water levels as high”. Properties in Water Street, Victoria Street, Victoria Road Cemetery Road, Brow Hill and Sherborne Terrace were affected. |
| **20 Nov 2016 Manchester Evg News 22 Nov** |  | Stalybridge: Millbrook village (Huddersfield Road) nearby had homes virtually destroyed by floods. The front door of Andy Vaughan's cottage was caved in by rush of water from a stream running off the Walkerwood Reservoir as storms battered the region on Monday. They and neighbours were rescued by boat from an upstairs window. "The water levels were rising and we were out unblocking the drains and putting sandbags out. "But then there were about three or four big pulses and the front door just bulged and gave way and the water started rushing in. A home on Demense Road was submerged in more than three inches of water. Debris was left scattered across Mottram Road and Stalybridge town centre streets following the downpour. |
| **25 Jul 2019 COL** |  | <Liverpool> Hailstones 2 to 2.5 cm across were observed in a day of widespread thunderstorms. |
| **1 Oct 2019 BBC News** |  | <Laxey> (Isle of Man): A major incident has been declared on the Isle of Man after severe flooding left people trapped in their homes. The village of Laxey was cut off for a time when the river burst its banks and poured into the streets. The fire service helped to evacuate several properties in the Glen Road area. While many roads had reopened, Glen Road had "suffered severe damage" and flood water had caused "major damage to houses" in the area. Heavy rain caused a landslip which shut the Mountain Road and flood damage closed the Laxey to Ramsey coast road. Flooding occurred when the swollen river Laxey burst through a gap in a wall that was being repaired. A digger being used to carry out the work was almost washed away by the force of the water. The flooding has also led to the closure of Laxey and Dhoon primary schools, the Department of Education, Sport and Culture said. A fire engine was washed away in flood waters. |
| **15 Jun 2020 COL** |  | <Rochdale>: A shop owner was left "devastated" by flooding on his first full day of trading after lockdown restrictions were eased. Dale Street in Milnrow, Rochdale was "completely flooded" when the River Beal rose rapidly in the evening. |
|  **5 Aug 2020 COL** |  | <Lancaster>: Homes in Lancaster were evacuated due to flooding at about 0430 GMT caused by heavy rain. The Environment Agency said the flooding was exacerbated by debris causing a blockage to Burrow Beck. A substation alsoflooded, leaving around 40 properties without power. |
| **11 Aug 2020 COL** |  | <Lancaster>: There were slow-moving thunderstorms in and around Lancashire in the early hours of the 11th. Fire crews were called out to more than 30 reports of flooding in Lancashire as a result, with Lancaster, Warton, Kirkham, Hesketh Bank and Tarleton among the areas affected. |
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General Note from BR 1931

A comparison of the intense falls year by year is given in a diagram on page 59 of the Q.J.R. Meteor. Soc., 1931. This diagram indicates that intense falls were relatively frequent in 1924, 1927, 1930 and 1931, during the period 1897 to 1900, and again in 1874 and 1878; while they were relatively infrequent during the periods1916 to 1923, 1907 to 1909 and 1881 to 1887.

There appear to have been very few years in the present century which could match 1961 for the paucity of intense rains. Among those worth looking into in this respect are 1919, 1922 and 1945. Also very small number in 1962 (in fact no records for either Lancashire or Yorkshire) – and 1963.