



- Contact **Floodline on 0845 988 1188** to find out if you can receive flood warnings by telephone. Information is also available about flooding and local flood wardens.
- Prepare a **flood kit** – important documents, first aid kit, blankets, torch etc – and keep it in a safe place.
- Plan your **escape route**, particularly if you live in a bungalow. If you live in a house and have window locks, always keep a key upstairs.
- Keep a list of **useful numbers** in a safe place in case of an emergency – local authority, insurance company, friends and family etc.
- Make sure you know how to shut off your **gas, electric and water supplies**.
- Check with your **insurance company** to see exactly what you are covered for. Keep your policy documents in a safe place.

## Preparing for a flood

Act now, don't wait for a flood. If a flood happens, the better prepared you are, the better you'll cope. Follow these simple steps to keep yourself and your family safe and reduce damage:

By March 2006, 2366 people in the middle River Aire catchment area had been offered a free flood warning service yet only 222 had signed up.

We are the Environment Agency. It is our job to look after your environment and make it a **better place** for you, and for future generations.

We build and maintain the majority of flood defences in low-lying areas of England and Wales to reduce the risk to homes and businesses. We are also responsible for warning the public about flooding from rivers and the sea in England and Wales and raising awareness of flood risk.

This leaflet has been designed to make you aware of flooding issues in your area and the steps you can take to help prevent flooding affecting you or your property.

Inside, you will also find a map of the middle River Aire catchment, which shows flood risk areas, and details of our Floodline Warnings Direct service, ensuring you have the latest news on flooding in your area.

The latest information on flooding is always recorded on Floodline. By calling Floodline, you can receive a quickdial number. A quickdial number is a number that allows you quick access to the information relevant to your local area.

**Minicom service on 0845 602 6340.**

For the deaf and hard of hearing there is a

day and night by telephone (landline or mobile). It is important that we can contact you throughout the flood warnings can be sent to you 24 hours a day. It

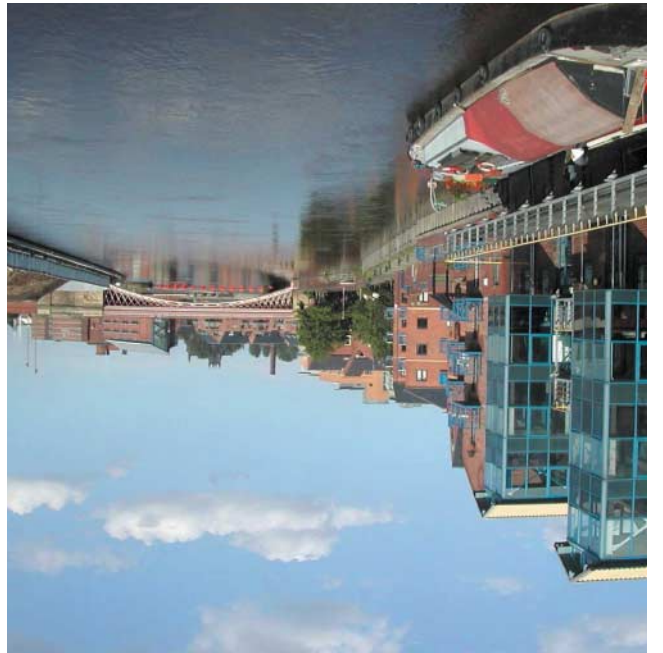
All calls are charged at local rate.

**Floodline on 0845 988 1188.**

Register for Floodline Warnings Direct by calling

In some flood risk areas, the Environment Agency operates the Floodline Warnings Direct service. This is our free flood warning system which delivers advance warning of flooding to our customers 24 hours a day by telephone, mobile, fax or pager.

## Floodline Warnings Direct



River Aire upstream of Crown Point Bridge in Leeds city centre

It will never be possible to prevent flooding entirely – instead, we try to manage flood risk. Flood risk management means assessing the risk of flooding and reducing the impact when it does occur. We use the latest technology 24 hours a day to monitor and forecast rainfall, river levels and sea conditions. This information is used to predict the likelihood of flooding from most major rivers and the sea.

## What we do

Many people think that flooding will never happen to them. However, if you live on a floodplain, your home is more likely to be flooded than it is to catch fire. Are you and your family prepared for a flood?


## Two million properties are at risk of flooding in England and Wales



# preparing for flooding

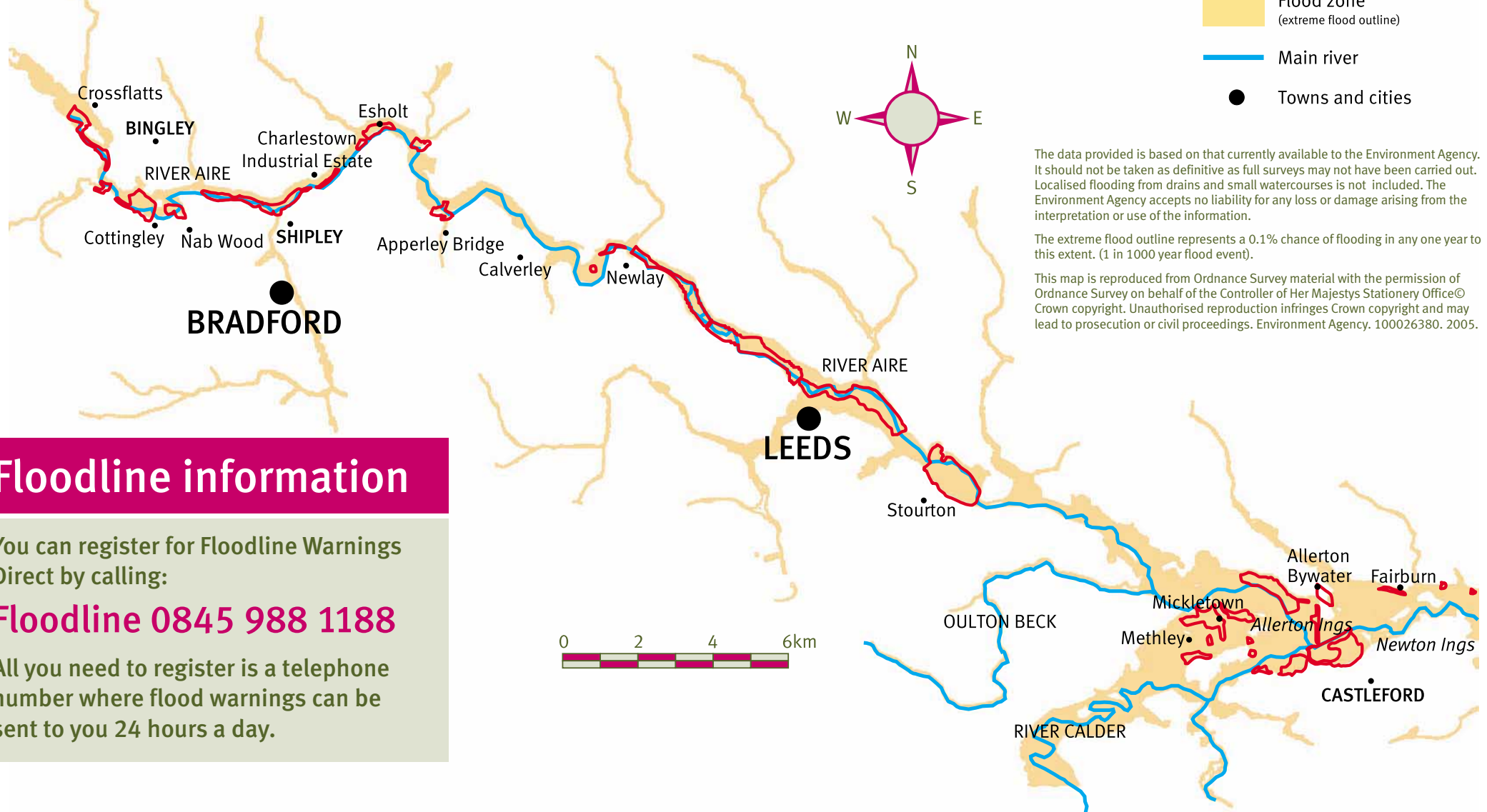
A guide to protecting yourself against flooding in the middle River Aire catchment



 **Environment first:** This publication is printed on paper made from 100 per cent previously used waste. By-products from making the pulp and paper are used for composting and fertiliser, for making cement and for generating energy.

# preparing for flooding

## Flood areas along the middle River Aire catchment



### Floodline information

You can register for Floodline Warnings Direct by calling:

**Floodline 0845 988 1188**

All you need to register is a telephone number where flood warnings can be sent to you 24 hours a day.

## The middle River Aire – a flood history

### June 1594

Earliest recorded event, a 'sudden flood' of the River Aire.

### November 1866

Extensive flooding throughout the catchment, including Leeds, Castleford, Allerton Bywater, Bingley. Largest recorded event in Leeds, with six drowned, flooding of Kirkstall Road and Station.

### January 1946

Flooding throughout catchment, including Castleford, Leeds, Shipley and Bingley.

### October 1980

16 properties between Skipton and Shipley flooded.

### October/November 2000

Serious flooding along whole river. Large scale evacuations. Properties flooded included 66 in Bingley and 24 in Shipley. Severe flooding of Leeds city centre only narrowly avoided.

### August 2002

Extensive flooding throughout the catchment, including the Leeds Inner Ring Road and the Ring Road at Wortley.

### August 2004

Flooding to properties from Wyke Beck, Leeds.

### May 2005

Around 200 properties flooded in Leeds from Wyke Beck and Farnley Wood Beck.



## Flood Warning Codes

The Environment Agency uses the following Flood Warning codes:



Flooding of low-lying farmland and roads is expected. Farmers with livestock in these areas should move them to higher ground. **Avoid driving through flooded roads.**



Flooding of homes and businesses is expected. **Act now – you may be flooded.**



Severe flooding is expected. There is extreme danger to life and property. **Act immediately!**



Flood watches or warnings are no longer in force in this area.