

Orcheston Village Flood Plan

Volunteer Flood Warden – Major J K Spottiswood
Mob: 07912393021
Home: 01980 620739

General Situation

1. Within the parish of Orcheston there are 2 areas where flooding is concentrated. They are:
 - a. The area where the River Till passes through the culvert under the roads between Peeko and Quainton (**SU 05854537**) which is shortly followed by another culvert between Quainton and Crown Cottage (SU 05954542) and the roads leading to these choke points.
 - b. The River Till alongside Elston Lane from the entrance to Appleford School (**SU 06644477**) until the entrance to Hinde Meadow (**SU 06954451**).
2. At the north end of Orcheston a winter bourne rising in the area of Greenlands Camp (**SU 068471**) overflows at a culvert at the entrance to The Rookery (**SU 05954563**) flooding the road completely (6 inches) as well as surrounding gardens. This winter bourne meets the River Till at the culvert between Quainton and Crown Cottage creating a massive pond with both sources fighting to get through the culvert. At the same time the culvert between Peeko and Quainton cannot cope and overflows on to the road where the water reaches a depth of 12 –18 inches and even moves north and surrounds Quainton. Overflow from the first culvert moves north down the road towards Crown Cottage and finds its way through the hedge into the pond at the second culvert.
3. In Elston Lane the volume of water is such that it simply overflows the banks of the river. This is despite the fact that there is considerable flood plain (approx 2 acres) between Waterlake and the (new) bridge at **SU 06154498** as well as approximately 4 acres of flood plain centred on **SU 06304465**. Both areas of flood plain are of SSSI status and cannot be dredged. In early 2014 the depth of flood on Elston Lane was above the level of kerbstones and the strength and duration of the flow eroded the bank at the southern end of the playing fields of Appleford School leaving the supports for the fencing hanging in the air. The 2 feet high bank was eroded over 12 inches away from the road exposing the irregular edge of the tarmac and leaving a ditch at the side of the lane.
4. Flooded properties requiring pumping out are:
 - a. Threepenny Bit – spring within the house.
 - b. Elston Lodge – source not certain.
 - c. Stonehenge Touring Park required daily pumping out of sewage.
 - d. Margaret Cottage – spring within the house.
 - e. Orcheston House – spring within the house.
 - f. Green Willows - spring within the house.
5. In both areas the source of flooding is a combination of ground water, surface water and the river. Water does also come from designed-in drainage in walls in properties across the road from both the Greenlands stream in north Orcheston and the River Till in Elston Lane.

6. We are not conscious of sewage contaminating the water ie we have not seen visible suspended matter though we assume that there has been some because water has been emanating from every manhole cover in the affected area.

Risk

7. The nature of the flooding has generally been gradual over a protracted number of weeks and months. This has in recent history allowed resident to take their own standard precautions. A number of the high risk properties have pumps installed to reduce the level of ground water or pump out vulnerable cellars. The key risk for these properties is a failure in the mains electricity to the village as they do not have backup generators.

8. Of more concern is the potential for sewage contamination and a number of properties have seen back up taking place in their ground floor toilets. Plugs for toilets are available on the open market for this eventuality and should be considered by those potentially impacted.

Emergency Deployment

9. Orcheston Village Hall by its location and facilities is the prime emergency location for the village. It is the RV for emergency services if deployed and will form the centre if families require any form of emergency evacuation. The facility has lighting, heating and cooking facilities if required.

Contact number for the Village Hall is 01980 620254.

The main rivers are the responsibility of the Environment Agency. In addition, the Agency provide a "Floodline", which is a 24 hour advice and information service for floods and flood warning on 0845 988 1188.

Serious Emergency or Threat to Life and Property

10. While the local community will do all it can in a serious situation given the limitation on available resource. The first call should always be to the appropriate Emergency Service. Cold and fast running water should not be entered as its power and depth is often underestimated.

General Actions

11. Land owners are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep all rivers and water courses on or adjoining their land in good order and repair. The Flood Warden takes a walk round every spring just to make certain that all remains in visual good order.

Sand Bags

12. It is intended to hold a small stock of sand and bags locally (at the Rookery) these will be available in an **emergency**. For general use people are to be encouraged to purchase their own. See the Sandbag Policy at Paragraph 25.

Guidance from the Environment Agency

Flood warning system

13. The [Environment Agency](#) is able to issue warnings several hours in advance of the possibility of river flooding using their automatic flood warning systems and also by radio

and TV messages. The automated telephone or fax warning system is available to householders whose property has been flooded in the past.

14. They are also able to provide warning messages about flooding from ground water in some areas. To find out which services are available in your area, or for the latest information on river and coastal flooding contact Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or contact them via the [Environment Agency website. www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

How can I be prepared?

15. The Environment Agency has some [simple steps to reduce the impact of flooding](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) on your home or business. www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information

16. If you require further information or require assistance with flood defence or land drainage matters please either complete the online form or contact localhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk or phone 0300 456 0105.

The following notes give guidance on who to contact for various types of flooding:

Flooding from Public Sewers

17. Water companies are responsible for maintaining public sewers. To report an overflowing or blocked public sewer, you should contact your water provider:

Wessex Water Sewage Floodline: 0845 850 5959 (24 hours)

Wessex Water Leak stoppers: 0800 692 0692

Email: leakstoppers@wessexwater.co.uk **Website:** www.wessexwater.co.uk

Southern Water Emergency line: If you have a water supply or wastewater emergency, including blocked drains or wish to report a possible pollution, please contact 0845 278 0845 (open 24 hours for emergencies)

Southern Water Leakline: 0800 820 999 (24 hrs) **Website:** www.southernwater.co.uk

Flooding from Private Sewers or Drains

18. If your private drains or sewers are overflowing, you will need a drainage contractor to deal with any blockage. See "Yellow Pages" under "Drain and Pipe Cleaning". If you are uncertain if any blockage is in the public or private sewers, the water company should be able to determine this, once on site, then charge you the cost of any work on the private sewers.

Flooding from the Public Highway

19. For flooding from the public highway or reporting blocked road gullies or gratings, contact the council.

Wiltshire's local highways service (formerly known as CLARENCE) for reporting road, lighting defects and other hazards including flooding and drainage issues.

Tel: 0300 456 0105

Email: localhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk

Flooding from a Burst Water Main

20. The local water supply companies are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the water mains, which carry large amounts of water from the treatment works to your street but the property owner is responsible for the pipe which supplies their individual address.

Wessex Water Leak stoppers: 0800 692 0692

Email: leakstoppers@wessexwater.co.uk **Website:** www.wessexwater.co.uk

Southern Water Leakline: 0800 820 999 (24 hours)

Website: www.southernwater.co.uk

Flooding from a Water Service Pipe or Internal Pipework

21. This is the responsibility of the homeowner or landlord and would need the attention of a plumber (see "Yellow Pages" or similar directories).

Flooding from a Main River

22. The main rivers are the responsibility of the Environment Agency. In addition, the Agency provide a "Floodline", which is a 24 hour advice and information service for floods and flood warning on 0845 988 1188.

Environment Agency Floodline: 0845 988 1188

Website: www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Other Useful Contacts

23. Local Highways (formerly known as CLARENCE – Wiltshire's **C**ustomer **L**ighting and **R**oads **E**nquiry **C**entre service) for reporting road, lighting defects and other hazards including flooding and drainage issues.

Telephone: 0300 456 0105 E-mail: localhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk

24. **Wiltshire Council Emergency Planning.** To coordinate and provide support and assistance to council service providers, the Emergency services and other agencies during the response to an incident. The team will also coordinate and assist with the recovery phase.

Telephone: 01225 713159 E-mail: emergencyplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk

25. **Sandbag policy.**

- a. Orcheston Parish Council has a sandbag policy similar to that of Wiltshire Council.
- b. Neither the Parish Council nor Wiltshire Council has a duty to provide sandbags or other temporary flood defences to residential and business properties although we will try to help where we can subject to supply and demand. It should be noted it is the property owner's responsibility to protect their property from flooding.
- c. If you know your property is at risk of flooding it is strongly recommended that you make your own arrangements for sandbags or other defences as part of a pre-emptive flood defence plan and sign up for the Environment Agencies Floodline warning system.

- d. What sandbags the Parish Council has will be distributed on a 'needs' basis to properties at imminent risk of flooding. We will not supply sandbags to defend gardens, sheds, outbuildings or other such structures. We do not accept responsibility for the placing of flood defences although we will do our best to help property owners but manpower is prioritised to the elderly and disabled
- e. We will not supply sandbags or other temporary defences in advance based on forecasts. You cannot collect sandbags from the Parish Council.
- f. Once issued sandbags become the property of the property owner and it is the owner's responsibility to dispose of them responsibly. Wiltshire Council can provide details of disposal sites
- g. The Parish Council has very limited supplies of sandbags, which we would prioritise to the elderly, disabled, and those with young families before offering to other householders and businesses. We will provide only 10 sandbags per property (This is generally enough for 1 doorway)
- h. Whilst we appreciate flooding events are stressful and traumatic the Parish Council will stop the distribution of sandbags if their volunteers are verbally or physically threatened
- i. Useful Links:
 - Helpful advice www.floodforum.org.uk
 - Supplier information www.blupages.org.uk
 - Floodline signup www.environment-agency.gov.uk
 - Wiltshire Council
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/civilemergencies/floodinganddrainage.htm
 - Local Builder Merchants for sandbags and plastic sheeting