

Chilmark Parish Council Flood Risk Assessment & Local Flood Plan

Background

Wiltshire Council has a duty under the Flood & Water Management Act to establish, quantify and record levels of flooding within the county.

Wiltshire Council requires that all town and parish councils assist with the discharge of this duty by providing relevant information about flood events and perceived flood risks in each locality.

All Parish Councils are encouraged to appoint a Flood Warden to help identify and notify the potential flooding problems to the Lead Local Flood Authority (Wiltshire Council), monitor the state of watercourses within the community and to assist the community in times of flooding emergencies.

Geology of Chilmark

Chilmark sits on chalk and lies at the bottom of a steep sided valley. The Winterbourne, often dry except for prolonged wet periods when it is fed by springs, runs through the valley bottom alongside "The Street". This steep sided valley could make parts of Chilmark vulnerable to ground water flooding following periods of prolonged heavy rainfall.

Chilmark Flood History

1. Significant flooding occurred in the early part of February 1990 – the worst being along "The Street" from Forge Cottage to "Beckett's Lane" where the watercourse running alongside the road overflowed, entering adjacent houses. The cause of this flooding was identified as being due to a combination of prolonged heavy rainfall throughout December and January with a lack of regular maintenance of the Winterbourne watercourse. Action by Riparian owners to keep the stream bed free of restrictions to flow seems to have prevented re-occurrence since then.
2. Significant flooding occurred in the early part of 2014 when groundwater levels were at a historically high level following heavy autumnal rainfall. The worst effected areas being "Hindon Lane" , the bottom of "Dog Drove" and along "The Street" from the junction of "Hops Close" up to the junction with "Frog Lane". Groundwater issued from many old spring lines around the village that had been inactive for some years.
3. Surface water flooding from field run off has historically occurred each winter at the junction of "Beckett's Lane"/"Claybush"/"Frog Lane" causing a traffic hazard and inconvenience to residents.
4. Surface water flooding along a section of "Hindon lane" towards its junction with the B3089 has occurred on a regular basis.
5. Surface water flooding has occurred at the junction of "Dog Drove" and "The Street"
6. Surface water flooding has occurred at Mooray when road drains have been blocked by debris.
7. Surface water flooding has occurred on the B3089 at the junction with "Cow Drove"
8. Surface water flooding has occurred on the B3089 in the vicinity of Robbs Cottages.

Risk Assessment Statement

Whilst the geology of Chilmark appears to give rise to potential flood risks and the Environment Agency Flood Map shows part of the village to be on a flood plain the risks can be minimised by regular clearance of the Winterbourne by Riparian owners and regular maintenance of highway drainage facilities by the local Highway Authority.

Flood Event Statement

The Flood Warden will carry out regular inspections of the Chilmark Winterbourne and work with local Riparian Owners in order to keep it free flowing and free from obstruction. The Flood Warden will also liaise with The Wiltshire Council Highways Agency and the councils Sewer & Gulley's team to keep the gulleys and drainage clear and free flowing to reduce the risk of any flooding.

During periods of high flood risk the Flood Warden will receive regular updates from the Environment Agency as to the levels of groundwater within the catchment area (please see below).

The Environment Agency monitor water levels (above sea level) in order to help us understand the current flood risk and the risk for the next 5 days in our location. In our area they monitor several areas including -

- water levels in the River Nadder at Tisbury,
- recent rainfall levels at Tisbury
- ground water levels at The Terraces Fonthill

The Flood Warden is signed up to receive flood warnings based on these measurements from the Environment Agency. They will issue 3 levels of flood warning aimed at alerting residents.

1 Flood Alert – Prepare. Residents at risk to prepare a bag that includes medicines & insurance documents. Check the flood warnings

2 Flood warning – Act. Turn off gas, water, electricity, move things upstairs or to safety, move family, pets and car to safety

3 Severe flood warning – Survive. Call 999 if in immediate danger, follow advice from the emergency services, keep yourself and family safe.

In the event of flooding the Flood Warden will assist the Parish Council to coordinate a response within the village. Resources and contacts in times of flooding include:

1. In the event of a severe flooding event and an associated significant risk to life or property the emergency services should be notified via 999

2. The Flood Warden will communicate any warnings received from the Environment Agency to the village using the The Village Voice. Sarah Miller, 01722 717 473, editor@chilmarkvillagevoice.co.uk
3. Sand bags - a pallet load of sandbags and aqua sacks are stored at Cleeves Farm and are available to the Flood Warden for deployment as and when necessary to residents.
4. Flood Warning Signage – two large road signs are also stored at Cleeves Farm and can be used by the Flood Warden to warn drivers of road flooding
5. Disaster recovery kit – Petrol Generator, Radios, Torches, High Vis Jackets in storage cupboard at rear of Reading Room. Councillor Morag Philpott will arrange access.
6. Councillor Morag Philpott will identify particularly vulnerable residents and the appropriate help offered.

Useful Numbers

7. Chilmark and Fonthill Bishop Primary School 01722 716 348
8. Environment Agency 0845 988 1188
9. Wiltshire Council 0300 456 0100
10. Wessex Water 0345 600 4600
11. Scottish & Southern Electricity 0800 072 7282 or 105
12. Re-Act ?
13. Velcourt – James Griffin 07772 547144 or 01747 820 130
14. Henry & Elizabeth Pelham 01722 716 234
15. Flood Warden & 1st Aid - Carl Jacobs (Flood Warden) 07890 894 570
16. Deputy Flood Warden – Ben Fowles 07879 600 030
17. Councillor Morag Philpott – 07470 380 410
18. Doctors Surgery – Tisbury 01747 870 204, Hindon 01747 820 222
19. Paul Butler Gardening Services – 07885 374822
20. Chilmark Sewerage Pumping Station – contact Wessex Water.

HILMARK SKETCH MAP

