

## Britford Village Flood Plan

Over 5.5 million properties in England and Wales are at risk of flooding from the sea, rivers, ground or surface water. That's one in six, which means there's a high chance one of these properties, is your home or business.

### 1.0 Introduction

This plan is intended to give an overview to the residents of Britford in preparing for a flood, and indicate the activity required to mitigate some of the effects of flooding, e.g. protecting property and managing the flood.

Information for anyone affected by flooding, plus the responsibilities of the Parish Council and other organisations are also described in the following pages.

The actions expected of each municipal organisation are listed in the plan, but that does not mean to say that the organisations necessarily accept that it is their responsibility to do so or have Britford as a priority area.

### 2.0 Flood warnings

The Environment Agency's Local Flood Warning Plan provides details of the flood warning arrangements for specific Flood Warning Areas where there is a risk of flooding from rivers or the sea.

For further information please visit; [www.environmentagency.gov.uk](http://www.environmentagency.gov.uk) or call the floodline on 0345 988 1188

There are three warning codes. These are:



Flooding is possible  
Be prepared



Flooding is expected  
Immediate action required



Severe  
Danger to life

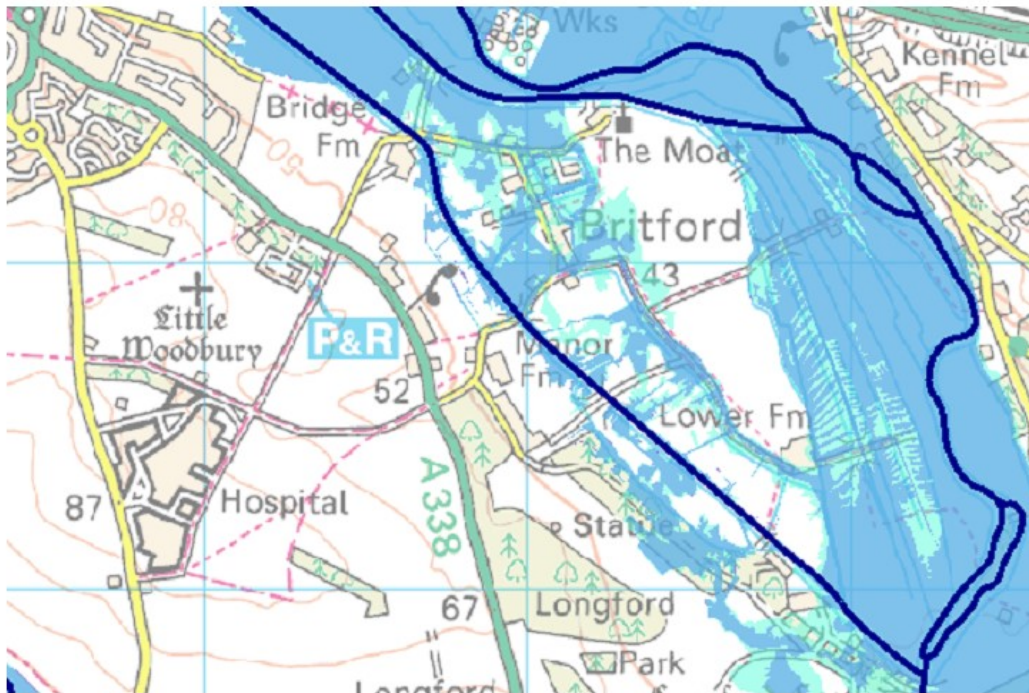
You can register with Floodline Warnings Direct – who will give you warnings of any flood situations: <https://fwd.environment-agency.gov.uk/app/olr/register>

Also, visit - <http://www.nationalforum.org.uk> – for advice on protecting you and your property from flooding.

Am I at risk of flooding?

Even if your home or business is not directly at risk of flooding from rivers or the sea, surface or groundwater flooding could still affect you.

The following map gives an indication of properties that may be at risk of flooding.



It pays to prepare for flooding. If your home or business is flooded it can be costly, not just in terms of money and time but also inconvenience and heartache. While it's impossible to completely flood-proof a property, there are lots of things you can do to reduce the damage flooding can cause and residents should take appropriate action to protect themselves and their property.

### **3.0 Flooding event**

The main types of flooding event referred to in this plan are:

- TIDAL (Sea)
- FLUVIAL (River)
- FLASH (Roads, ditches, fields)
- GROUNDWATER (High water table)
- SEWAGE (Sewers, rising mains and pumping stations)
- DRINKING WATER (Mains failure)

### **4.0 Level of response**

Priority is likely to be given to the old or infirm when assisting people and to occupied property when protecting property. The classification of roads may

be used in prioritising responses to road flooding and the protection of commercial property may depend on the risk of environmental pollution from stored chemicals etc.

Owners and occupiers should make their own arrangements to protect their property from flooding.

However, Wiltshire Council may assist with the provision of sandbags to property owners on request if there is a risk of flooding to premises, however this will be on a priority basis.

Priorities are preservation of life, followed by limitation of property damage.

## **Parish Council Response**

### **Flood Warden, or Deputy, Responsibilities:**

The flood group/volunteers will ensure the following actions are taken under instruction of the Warden (or Deputy depending on the timing of the Flood Alert) where appropriate to the conditions noted at the time and any expected change to said conditions. If the Flood Warden is not available, the Deputy Warden will perform the duties of the Flood Warden.

- Contact Environment Agency (Duty Officer) to inform them that the village flood plan has been activated and to ascertain risk and rate of flooding/agree call back frequency.
- Check availability of Flood group and volunteers. **Stay safe – flood warden and volunteers are reminded not to enter flood water.**
- Check vulnerable residents/properties at risk, encourage residents to deploy property defences.
- If/when conditions dictate inform the relevant volunteers to put the 'Flooded' signs.
- Report any internal property flooding on My Wilts App and then email the drainage team: [drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk)
- A log of all incidents will be kept by the flood warden.

### **Useful telephone numbers:**

- Environment Agency – FLOODLINE: 0345 988 1188
- Wiltshire Council – 0300 456 0100
- Britford Parish Council:  
Cllr Nat Cole – 07500 062255 (Flood Warden)  
Cllr Derek Finnis – 07798 863467
- Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service - 01722 691000/ Emergency: 999
- Wiltshire Constabulary - 101/ Emergency: 999

- Wessex Water - 0845 600 4600
- Wessex Water Sewage Floodline: 0345 600 4600 (24 hours)
- Southern Electricity – 0800 072 7282
- Gas emergency - 0800 111 999

## **5.0 Authorities involved.**

### **Environment Agency**

The principal actions of the Environment Agent (EA) include:

- Issuing flood warnings
- Receiving and recording details of all flooding incidents
- Monitoring the situation and advising other organisations
- Dealing with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and own structures
- Responding to pollution incidents
- Advising on waste disposal issues

### **Wiltshire Council**

The actions of the Council include:

- Co-ordinating emergency arrangement as appropriate
- Maintaining safe conditions on the roads
- Clearing blockages on highway drainage systems
- May take action to protect property from flooding by water from the highway where there is a failure of the highway.

### **Britford Parish Council**

The actions of the Parish Council are:

- Liaising with relevant authorities
- Allocating sandbags on a priority basis – contact the Wiltshire Council
- May put out flood warning signs.

### **Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service**

The principal actions of the Fire and Rescue Service are:

- Rescuing the trapped
- Responding to calls for pumping assistance when available.
- Assisting villagers where a need is identified and the use of Fire Service personnel and equipment is relevant.

### **Wessex Water**

The principal actions of Water Companies are:

- Emergency over pumping or tankering at pumping stations where such action can reduce the risk of flooding.
- Clearing blockages in public sewers and Wessex Water operated storm overflows.
- Repairing burst sewage and water pumping mains
- Provision of drinking water if required.

### **Electricity, gas and telecommunication companies**

The principal actions of the electricity and gas companies are:

- Attend to emergencies relating to their service at properties putting life at risk as a result of flooding.
- Attend to flooding emergencies at their own service installations.

### **Property Owners**

The principal actions of owners of property at risk of flooding:

- Prevent water from entering their property if possible.
- Move motor vehicles to high ground (Britford Park & Ride?)
- Close off flow valves to any fuel or oil containers.
- Switch off electricity and gas supplies at mains.
- Move to the nearest high point if flooding is inevitable taking important personal possessions, documents, items of sentimentality or high value.
- Ensure the safety of pets.

### **Business Owners**

The principal actions of business owners of property at risk of flooding:

- Prevent water from entering their property if possible.
- Move motor vehicles to high ground (Britford Park & Ride)
- Close off flow valves to any fuel or oil containers.
- Switch off electricity and gas supplies at mains.
- Move to the nearest high point if flooding is inevitable taking important personal possessions, documents, items of sentimentality or high value.
- Ensure the safety of pets/livestock.

### **All residents**

**Do not drive unnecessarily through floodwater. If this is essential, please drive slowly to prevent wash from your vehicle.**

### **6.0 Flood risk areas**

All low lying parts of the village and properties close to the River Avon

## **Appendix 1**

### **ARE YOU PREPARED FOR FLOODING?**

The Environment Agency's Floodline is there to help keep you informed of any flood situations in your area, but do you know what to do if your property is at risk?

Make yourself a Flood Plan so that you are ready to protect you and your family from flooding should the worst happen ...

#### **FAMILY FLOOD PLAN**

- Make a list of useful telephone numbers, and keep them in a safe, clear place, close to hand.
- Make sure all family members know and understand your plan
- Find out who, in the immediate area, holds sandbag stocks and where (local builders' merchants). Keep these details somewhere safe and close to hand.
- Make a Flood Kit – It is a good idea to have a kit, containing a few essentials, made up and stored where everyone in the house knows where to find it. Your kit should include:
  - Key Personal Documents
  - Wellington Boots/Waders
  - Torch – preferably a head-torch to keep your hands free
  - Waterproof Clothing
  - Battery or Wind-up Radio
  - Candles & matches
  - First Aid Kit
  - Mobile Phone
  - Blankets
  - Rubber Gloves
  - Drinking water
  - Food

- Pets
- Any important medication

If you have children, consider what they will need.

- Get into the habit of storing valuable papers and belongings upstairs or in a high place downstairs.
- You should know exactly where to turn off the gas and electricity, and even be able to find them in the dark. Mark the tap or switch with a sticker to help you remember.
- Make sure the car is parked in a safe place.
- Make a list of things you need to take with you in case of evacuation. Have a plan for your family pets. Decide NOW where you will go and how you will get there. If you decide to stay in the house but decamp upstairs, make a list of things you will need.
- Listen to and act on advice from emergency services.

Protect your property and possessions.

Whether you rent or own your home or business premises, there are many things you can do to help yourself. Some are simple and temporary while others involve permanent structural work.

You can also make improvements so that even if floodwater enters your property, it causes less damage, so drying-out and cleaning up is faster and easier. This means you could move back home or open for business far more quickly.

The most important thing is to prepare now by buying and installing flood products in advance, and by writing a flood plan for your property.

Don't wait until flooding looks likely, as you won't have time to buy or put the measures in place. Some flood prevention aids may already be sold-out when an emergency situation presents itself.

Try to keep floodwater out – refer to National Flood Forum and Environment Agency:

- Doors: buy purpose-built flood boards that can be installed when flooding is imminent. You can also raise door thresholds.
- Walls and floors: raise damp-proof brick courses. Sealing floors (“tanking”) can prevent water rising through the ground.
- Air bricks: buy specially designed covers that are easy to place over ventilation bricks.
- Drains and pipes: fit non-return valves to drains and water inlet and outlet pipes.
- Consider having septic tanks emptied.

...but accept that flood water might get in.

In the case of bigger floods this actually needs to happen otherwise the weight of the water outside might cause the building to collapse. Here are some things you can do to reduce the damage floodwater might cause inside:

- Shelving: Put irreplaceable or valuable items on high-mounted shelves
- Home entertainment: Fix your audio-visual equipment, for example your TV and hi-fi, to the wall about 1.5 metres above floor level.
- Skirting: Fit water-resistant skirting boards, or varnish them
- Pump: Fit a pump in a basement or under-floor void to extract flood water
- Walls: Dry-line. Use horizontal plasterboard, or lime-based plaster instead of gypsum. Get a special draining system for cavity walls.
- Flooring: Lay tiles with rugs rather than fitted carpets, which often need to be replaced after a flood.
- Doors and windows: Install synthetic or waxed windows and doors, or varnish subject to planning regulations.
- Kitchen and bathroom: use water-resistant materials such as stainless steel, plastic or solid wood rather than chipboard. Where possible raise fridges and appliances on plinths.
- Electricals: Raise electrical sockets, fuse boxes, controls and wiring to be at least 1.5 metres above floor level. If rewiring, bring cables down the wall to the raised socket so that cabling isn't affected.