

ULEY PARISH COUNCIL
LOCAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013

Introduction.

Following severe flooding in 2007 the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) was introduced to enhance the role of local agencies in managing flood risk and mitigation.

This gave Gloucestershire County Council the lead role in co-coordinating local flood risk management in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities. In 2013 GCC introduced a Flood Management Strategy setting out the respective roles and responsibilities of the authorities with regard to management and mitigation of flooding.

Gloucestershire County Council has a Flood Risk Management Team, which is actively encouraging local communities to take the following steps:

- Prepare community flood plans
- Appoint a flood warden
- Sign up to flood warnings
- Maintain watercourses
- Form local flood groups
- Dispose of fats, oils and grease responsibly
- Raise funds for local mitigation work.

The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy includes provisions for GCC to:

- Work with parish councils to identify the location and ownership of drainage ditches and ordinary watercourses;
- Support Parish Councils to work with local landowners to clear drainage ditches and ordinary watercourses. GCC can use its local drainage enforcement role when necessary;
- Carry out a programme of gully and culvert clearance.

Flood risk in Uley

Uley is not located in an area at high risk of flooding. Since 2007, significant civil engineering and clearance works along the course of the Ewelme have mitigated the risk of flooding. However, during heavy and continuous rainfall minor flooding incidents do occur.

There are three main sources of flooding risk in Uley.

1. **Run off from rainwater and spring water.** A number of springs arise on either side of the valley in Uley, generally draining into the River Ewelme, sometimes forming bodies of surface water, sometimes draining onto highways where the water can cause a significant hazard to traffic. In times of heavy rainfall this process is exacerbated;
2. **Ditches and culverts.** At times of heavy rainfall if ditches and culverts are not clear of debris or have degraded, they will not be able to maintain a steady flow of water and can result in overflows onto the highways, and flooding in low lying areas;
3. **Watercourses.** Where watercourses such as rivers and ordinary watercourses are not kept clear and well maintained, overflow of excess water can put properties downstream at risk of flooding. This can occur at times of heavy rainfall or from the incorrect operation of sluice gates along the course of the River Ewelme.

Experience of Flooding in Uley

In 2007 exceptionally heavy rainfall caused two separate instances of flooding in Uley and Shadwell. Three main areas have been affected on both occasions: the bottom end of Shadwell; certain properties off The Street in the centre of Uley; and properties along the River Ewelme.

The Headwaters

There are two streams which need to be watched. The first is the actual **River Ewelme**, which starts from a number of springs in the Dingle (the valley in the Nympsfield direction). Its route down valley is initially through farm land (owned by Mutterall Farm and Dingle Farm) to a pond which does not have a sluice gate. After this pond, it flows on past the various Mills and other properties further down the valley.

The second stream is the **Mill Leat**, which rises in the hill above Owlpen Manor, feeds into a pond at the Manor and then carries on down to a second pond on farmland belonging to Dingle Farm (not the one fed by the river Ewelme). It is believed that both these ponds have working sluice gates. The Mill Leat then joins the river Ewelme further down the valley. At this point the two streams plus other springs which feed in at this point, become the one River Ewelme which flows further down the valley to the other mills and properties and on towards Dursley.

In 2007 on two occasions the water in the two streams built up to the point where their banks were breached at a number of points. The second occasion was much worse than the first and the farmer at Dingle Farm reported that the top

springs of the River Ewelme had already breached up at the top end in the Dingle before it came further down (which it hadn't done on the first occasion). On both occasions water came over the top of the unsluiced pond (on the river Ewelme) looking like a waterfall, but the edge of the pond did not breach (which could have had a serious flooding impact). Obviously, the further you go down the valley the more water there is in the streams and the more water there is to overflow or potentially flood. Landowners along the Ewelme (riparian owners) have assessed the effect of the water on their properties, in particular finding the 'pinch points' where the water backed up or breached the river banks, and specialist contractors have been called in as appropriate

Shadwell

The flooding in Shadwell is caused by:

(a.) Water running off the hills above the village that form the Cotswold 'edge'

At times of heavy rainfall, water pours down Lampern Hill onto the road surface. This has been exacerbated since the excavation of a large pond at Lampern House from which water pours out of the bank onto the road in a white waterfall at times. When it freezes it is extremely dangerous. This joins the other water flowing off the hillside, which is carried down the road past Bencombe, where it joins with water from Lye Farm (which ponds in the fields to the left of the farm entrance). The higher part of Lampern Hill does not fall within Uley Parish, but it is noted here that gullies are scoured out at times along the edges of the road and, as banks are so steep on the lower side of the road, this could cause bank instability over time. From the Lye Farm entrance the water can run into the garden of Lampern Cottage, which used to have a pond to cope with it, through into the pond in The Walled Garden and then through a newly installed pipe under the footpath into the River Ewelme at Dauncey's Mill.

On both occasions in July 2007 this water resulted in flooding all along this route, with properties in the lower section flooded and drainage systems overwhelmed. Water coming down Lampern Hill also contributes to the flooding in the lane at Shadwell.

(b.) Water running off the hill into Stouts Hill fishing lake.

Water overflowing from the lake is piped down into the ditch along the top edge of the lane between Elcombe and Shadwell, under the lane and into the culvert running along the bottom edge of Spring Mill. On both occasions in July 2007 this drainage system was overwhelmed and considerable amounts of water also ran from the lake over the bank and into the lane. The lowest point of the lane, adjacent to the entrance to Spring Mill was flooded quickly eventually to a depth of about 1.5m, flooding two properties. Since the July floods, a specialist

drainage firm has cleared obstructions in the water course at Spring Mill. There are no sluice gates on Stouts Hill Lake or the pond at The Walled Garden.

(c). **The River Ewelme**

This runs through Dauncey's Mill and then The Manse, under the road (Lampern Hill) and then behind Riverside and Spring Mill, continuing out of the village in the direction of Dursley. It is reported to have contributed to the flooding at Dauncey's Mill, but has not contributed to problems further downstream. Dauncey's Mill and Spring Mill both have working sluice gates.

Both these areas are marked on the enclosed map.

The Street, Uley

There have been problems for some time along The Street. Every time it rains heavily large volumes of surface water run down the surface of the road through the village past the top bus stop and village hall. The Old Crown Pub has flooded on a regular basis, but on checking with the landlord prior to making this report this seems to be resolved now.

Other Flood Problems

Following the severe flooding in 2007, a number of riparian owners carried out clearance and maintenance works on the watercourses for which they were responsible and this has undoubtedly improved the situation significantly along the course of the river. However, in subsequent years a number of instances of flooding have occurred in the parish which do not specifically relate to the river.

Shadwell and Elcombe and Fop St.

At times of heavy rainfall, surface water flows down the road at Lampern View and at Fop Street, collecting in the Sheep Dip. In cold weather the water coming down Fop Street has a tendency to also freeze, causing a hazard to pedestrians and vehicles, which can result in cars being unable to stop at the crossroads and slipping out onto the main road in the path of the oncoming traffic coming round the bend from the Dursley direction.

Cuckoo's Brook.

In the winter of 2012, probably owing to the heavy rain and activity of springs at the side of Fiery Lane, the bridge over the Cuckoo's Brook on Fiery Lane became submerged and the road was closed, blocking off one end of the only vehicular access to Owlpen.

Raglan Way.

For a number of consecutive years the pond at the BT Telephone Exchange has silted up as the result of run off from the fields. In heavy rain this can cause water to overflow onto Raglan Way, flowing downhill and out onto the main street.

Dursley.

In the winter of 2012 Uley Parish Council was contacted by residents in Ewelme Close, Ferney and Yellow Hundred Close who had suffered flooding to their properties during heavy rainfall. They requested the Parish Council to remind riparian owners to take care to maintain their watercourses and where there are sluice gates, to ensure that they are operated properly by opening by just a crack to increase water flow by a small amount rather than letting out large volumes at one time, since in this case the risk of downstream flooding will be increased.

FLOOD ACTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In Gloucestershire the following Agencies have defined responsibilities:

ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

- Issue flood warnings
- Receive and record details of all flooding incidents
- Monitor the situation and advise other organisations
- Deal with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and own structures
- Respond to pollution incidents
- Advise on waste disposal issues

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Tel: 08708 506

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

- Co-ordinate emergency arrangements
- Maintain safe conditions on the roads
- Put *flood warning* signs on the highway
- Organise road closures and traffic diversions
- Clear blockages on highway drainage system
- May take action to protect property from flooding by water from the highway where there is a failure of the highway drainage system.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

Tel: 01452 425000

Highways 08000514 514

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

- Co-ordinating role for own area
- Flood warning dissemination (By local agreement with Environment Agency)
- Emergency Assistance (S138 LGA 1972) - Provide sandbags
- Clear blocked watercourses etc. (Land Drainage Act powers)
- Carry out actions as County Council for highways (Highways Agency areas only)
- Environmental Health issues - pollution
- Blocked road channels and gully gratings - Street cleaning
- Emergency Planning Support Groups

Stroud District Council

www.stroud.gov.uk

Tel: 01453 766321

TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

- Flood warning dissemination (by local agreement with Environment Agency)

Uley Parish Council

Clerk: Ms Ashy McKay

Tel: 01453 861260

Flood Warden: Mr Guy Blanch

Tel: 01453 861218

Responsibilities of Local Landowners

RIPERIAN OWNERS

- To maintain the watercourse and to clear obstructions (natural or otherwise) so the normal flow of water is not impeded.
- To maintain the banks and bed of the watercourse (including any trees and shrubs growing on the banks) and any flood defences that exist on it.
- To accept the natural flow from the upstream neighbour and transfer it downstream without obstruction, pollution or diversion.
- To maintain any approved structures on their stretch of the watercourse. These may include culverts, weirs and mill gates.

ALL OTHER LANDOWNERS WITH A FLOODING OR WATER PROBLEM HISTORY

- To clear ditches or gullies on their land where there have been flooding problems, especially those affecting roads
- To maintain their land so as not to affect other landowners or property

In 2007, following the damage caused by the flooding, the Parish Council, with the co-operation of local riparian owners, appointed a flood warden and set up a telephone alarm system whereby upstream owners would ring downstream owners in the event of flooding.

In November 2012 UPC decided to prepare a Local Community Flood plan to enable flood management and mitigation to operate more effectively. This Plan is the result of that decision and has been prepared in the light of recent flooding problems as well as the requirements placed on parish councils in this matter.

ROLE OF THE FLOODWARDEN.

The flood warden is a voluntary post. Their principle role is to activate the warning system for riparian owners and parishioners when there is a flood risk and to liaise with the parish clerk, local authorities, Environment Agency and emergency planners to rectify any issues arising from flooding. They will also advise the Parish Council on flood management.