

DOWNTON
PARISH COUNCIL



Local Flood Plan For The Parish of Downton

**Updated and
Adopted 12 February 2024**

**Parish Clerk:
Melanie Camilleri
Tel: 07798 698199
Email: clerk@downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk
[Downton's Flood Plan – Downton Parish Council](#)**



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FLOOD PLAN REVIEW

Date	Reviewed by	Comments
Sept 2020	Bev Cornish	To align with draft Community emergency Response Plan, including details from the Incident Action Card.
Dec 2023	Water Meadows & Flood Defence Ctee	
Date of approval in 2024	Downton Parish Council	12 February 2024

FLOOD PLAN DISTRIBUTION

Copies of the Flood Plan are held by:

Role	Holder	Comments
Parish Clerk	Mel Camilleri	
DPC website		
Flood Wardens		
Parish Council Administration Officer	Susan Barnhurst Davies	



INTRODUCTION

This plan has been approved by the Water Meadows and Flood Defence Committee and Downton Parish Council and is designed to provide a basic framework and guidance in managing and mitigating against a major flood incident which may threaten the safety and welfare of the community (both residential and employed), property and livestock but noting that protection of individual properties is an owner responsibility.

The Plan covers the Parish of Downton and encompasses properties that are at risk from flooding. The Plan will be reviewed biennially, with the Clerk, to arrange review dates and notify Committee members accordingly. It will also be reviewed and updated after any major flood incident to reflect lessons learned.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

- Identify the risks to the community and take action to mitigate them.
- Identify vulnerable assets in the community and develop plans to assist/protect them.
- Identify resources in the community available to assist during a flood.
- Promote preparatory work that householders/business/premises can do before a flood occurs.
- Provide key contact details for the Flood Response Team, including the Flood Wardens, the Emergency Services and Local Authorities.

RIPARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

A key defence against flooding is the management of the water meadows and its network of sluices, ditches, watercourses etc. Key rivers are defined by the Environment Agency as Main Rivers – see Appendix 6 for an extract from their [main river mapping website](#). Making changes to designated main rivers requires the approval of the Environment Agency. Other watercourses require the approval of the lead local flood authority (Wiltshire Council). If a water course crosses or borders your property then you have defined responsibilities and obligations. Information can be found from the link– [Owning a watercourse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Downton Parish Council has a duty to contact Riparian owners when required to remind them of their responsibilities.

FLOOD COMMAND CONTROL AND COMMUNICATION

The responsibility for flood warnings and alerting Parish residents via social media is that of the Parish Clerk. On the issue of a flood warning, a lead councillor, usually the Flood Committee Chair, will be nominated by the Parish Council.

The lead councillor, assisted by the Parish Clerk and the Administration Officer, will check the availability of flood wardens, contact details and stores available and thereafter coordinate and assist the flood wardens and liaising with the local authorities, emergency services and other agencies as required.

The Administration Officer will be responsible for updating Flood Committee members and flood warden details at Annex A and setting up email and WhatsApp groups as appropriate to the scale of flood.

Key Contacts	Name	Tel Number
Parish Clerk	Mel Camilleri	07798 698199
Administration Officer	Susan Barnhurst Davies	07483 344035
Councillors	Matt Randall	
	Stu Carter	
	Paul Roberts	
	Gareth Watts	



drainage@wiltshire.gov.uk		0300 456 0105
operational.enquires@wessexwater.co.uk	Wessex Water Sewage Floodline	0345 850 5959
www.wessexwater.co.uk	Wessex Water	0800 6920692
Bournemouth Water	Bournemouth Water	01202 590059

OTHER RESOURCE CONTACTS

Role	Name	Tel Number
Wilts Council - County Councillor	Richard Clewer	07980 756424

AT RISK AREAS

Downton has several potential sources of flooding – from the River Avon which floods via ground water rising or from surface water (eg road gullies/drains, brooks and streams) which typically have flash floods after heavy periods of rain. There have also been incidents of sewer overflow due to excess rainwater and groundwater infiltration.

The River Avon is fed by many smaller rivers that are fed from groundwater in the Salisbury Plains. These feed into the River Avon around Salisbury. The last significant flood in Downton occurred when, in order to protect Salisbury, the flood gates below Salisbury were opened. Following this the Downton Flood Defence scheme was installed in 2005.

The Environment Agency (EA) has an on-line map that shows the areas at risks by inputting a post code <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map?eastings=417495&northings=121487&address=100121336685>. For ease of reference, this is also included in Appendix 2.

From the EA Flood zone risk maps and from historical records and local knowledge, the following areas are at risk:

Surface Water Flooding

- Charlton All Saints – Lower Road, Church Corner and Warrens Lane
- Old Standlynch Farm
- Bridge House Gardens / Footpath leading to Avon Meadow

Road Gulley Flooding:

- Borough outside Memorial Hall
- Lode Hill down to High Street
- Moot Lane
- Pinch point / High Street

Sewer Overflows:

- Wick Lane
- Long Close West

River / Ground Water Flooding:

- Wick Lane / Mesh Pond
- South Lane



NB Part of The Borough is protected by the EA Flood Defence Scheme. If this system were to fail then the householders would have very few hours in which to take precautions, possibly evacuate as advised by the Environment Agency and emergency services.

Critical Infrastructure:

- Electricity sub-station beside the Bunny – opposite the Memorial Hall.
- Sewer pumping stations depending on outside electrical supply (OES)
- EA Flood Defence Scheme depends on OES – although has capability for connection to stand-alone generators

Flood Risk Zones

- 1 West of The Borough from the Co-op to The Bull including South Lane
- 2 East of The Borough from the Co-Op to the Tannery Bridge including Green Lane
- 3 High St
- 4 The Headlands, Greenacres & West Wick
- 5 Long Close / Gravel Close
- 6 All properties from Tannery Bridge down to Mould's Bridge
- 7 Charlton All Saints

ACTIONS BEFORE A FLOOD

- Encourage residents to sign up to EA Flood alerts and install Smartphone Apps - 'Community Level Sensor' or 'RiverApp – River Levels'
- Notify flood wardens.
- Identify and encourage landowners to meet their riparian responsibilities, especially for key watercourses.
- Encourage residents to join Environment Agency 'Floodline Warnings Direct' scheme, by publicising through the village newsletter (InDownton and St Laurence's) and village websites.
- Promote the Environment Agency's advice to home-owners / businesses on preparatory actions.
- Over the summer months / autumn the Flood Wardens will identify sites where flood water may occur and will inform the Wiltshire Highways team if there is a drain or gully which floods and makes it dangerous for drivers as a consequence of heavy rain.
- Annually in July review level of stocks in Parish Council lock-up and liaise with Wiltshire Council weather team re Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme to apply for road signs and gel sacs as required.

HOUSEHOLDER / BUSINESS GRANTS

Where properties have flooded in recent times, grants are available up to £5000 to assist with flood resilience. Residents should check Wiltshire Council website for specific financial support relating to flood damage.



MONITORING & ALERTS



Official state - Flood Alert - Flooding is possible, be prepared

- Cascade alert to monitor situation and EA website.
- Flood Wardens to familiarise themselves with any vulnerable persons in the flood risk zones
- Flood Wardens to monitor levels of surface water / condition of ditches / drains etc. In particular The Bunny and upstream / downstream water meadows.
- EA provided water level gauges are displayed on DPC website - <https://downtonparishcouncil.gov.uk/emergency-plans-information/river-gauges>
- The River Gauges are also available via the 'Community Level Sensor' or 'RiverApp – River Levels' Smart phone apps. Monitor key upstream locations and also ground water on the Salisbury Plain.
- Triggers for activating the following sections in this plan include:
 - Local Flood Warning/Severe Flood Warning from Environment Agency emailed / texted to flood wardens.
 - Local knowledge.

RESPOND TO A FLOOD WARNING



Official Status - Flood warning – Act - Flooding is expected, immediate action required.

The designated Flood Wardens for the Parish are registered to receive EA Flood Watch and Warnings and will trigger the following response following EA notification of a Flood Warning:

Step	Action	Completed
1.	<p>The Lead Flood Councillor will contact Flood Wardens and establish the extent of any local flooding.</p> <p>The Lead Flood Councillor or Flood Wardens will call Wiltshire Council Civil Emergencies and a list of contacts is https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/civil-emergencies-who-to-contact for further advice and/or assistance, and try to establish whether further flooding is expected and when and how long before the water levels might start to drop.</p> <p>Call the Environment Agency Flood Line on 0345 9881188 Start recording events on the Incident Log Sheet</p>	
2.	<p>If life is being threatened, or if the emergency services are required, call 999 and request immediate assistance. Notify the Wiltshire Police (dial 101). Consider Early Evacuation of premises at serious risk based on the flood warning.</p>	
3.	<p>In extremis, set up a temporary Parish Council office in a safe location that is not at risk of flooding and agree manning levels.</p> <p>The office will coordinate, and should be informed of all aspects of the operation.</p> <p>On consideration of information provided by the EA, Wiltshire Council and Flood Wardens, agree the level of response and identify what equipment/manpower resources are required. All those involved in the task are requested to bring mobile telephones and chargers with them, if possible, to assist with communications.</p>	



Step	Action	Completed
4.	If road closures are required implement the road closure procedure as detailed in Appendix 5.	
5.	If sand-bags or gel sacs are required, the Flood Wardens will contact: Wiltshire Weather and Drainage Team/Emergency Team.	
6.	Remember – keep a log of all incoming and outgoing calls and any action taken.	
7.	Be prepared to brief and work with emergency services/local authority operatives on their arrival.	
8.	All residents likely to be affected are advised to have their own contingency plan for belongings and critical documents.	

RESPOND TO A SEVERE FLOOD WARNING



Severe flooding, danger to life

Severe flooding poses a significant risk to life and disruption such as loss of Vital Domestic Supply to a large number of properties, or damage to infrastructure.

As for Flood Warning, plus:
Consider immediate evacuation. Life may be at risk

If the flooding has resulted or will result in people having to leave their homes, for instance if a severe flood warning has been issued, affected residents cannot relocate to friend or family in safe locations, alternative emergency accommodation will be provided at nominated safe space.

KEY INFRASTRUCTURE DETAILS

As Downton is located in the middle of the Avon water meadows there are many drains, ditches and sluices. This section records details related to the infrastructure of drains, ditches, sluices.

Item	Location	Comments
Road gulleys	on south side of Borough between Iron Bridge & Tannery Bridge	These drain underneath the houses into a ditch behind 142 The Borough. Image taken from Bing (OS Map) - ditches shown by dark blue lines. Also see Appendix 4



COUNCILS & UTILITIES CONTACT DETAILS

Organisation	Name	Contact Details
Environment Agency:	Flood-line: -for river level information and to register for the flood warning service. Flood Incidents (24hrs):	Floodline on 0345 988 1188. General enquiries: Check for flooding - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)



Organisation	Name	Contact Details
	General advice will be given as well as indicating any response or defence measures that can be put in place by the EA themselves. An incident room for any given area will be set up on receiving a certain volume of calls, and all calls relating to this area will then automatically be diverted to the area centre.	Groundwater levels on the internet: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk River Levels: Find river, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels - GOV.UK (check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)
Police: Salisbury /South Wilts Community Team	Pc Murphy PCSO	101
Wiltshire Council	Switchboard	0300 456 0100
Bournemouth Water	Switchboard	01202 590059
Wessex Water	Switchboard Sewage Floodline (in a property)	0345 6003600
Electricity Emergencies	SSE Power Distribution	105
National Gas Emergencies	Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Street Lighting	Wiltshire Council	0800 0727282
BT	Report a fault	Text help to 61998

LOCAL MEDIA & TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Radio Stations	Freq	Tel Number
Radio Wiltshire	103.5 FM, 104.3 FM, DAB	01793 513626
Greatest Hits Radio	102.0 FM	Newsroom 01722 416644
Salisbury Journal Press	Newsdesk	01722 426504
Wilts & Dorset Buses	Hotline for Advice	01202 338420

KEY COMMUNITY SKILLS

Experience/ Qualification	Address/Tel Number	Availability
Medical Aid:	Downton Surgery, Moot Lane, Downton SP5 3JP	01725 510296
	NHS Out of Hours Service	0300 111 5717

NOMINATED SAFE SPACE INFORMATION

Premises	Role during incident	
Downton Leisure Centre	Potential Place of Safety	
Downton Baptist Church	Potential Place of Safety	



St Laurence's Church	Potential Place of Safety	
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EQUIPMENT DETAILS

Equipment	Owner	Available at:	Contact
Hi Vis Jackets	Parish Council	PC Store	Parish Council Administration Officer 07483 344035
Flood signs	Parish Council	PC Store	Parish Council Administration Officer 07483 344035
Flood Defences / gel sacs (disposable)	Parish Council	PC Store	Parish Council Administration Officer 07483 344035



APPENDIX 2 - WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

1. Monitor rainfall and river levels and make forecasts and issue flood warnings on main rivers, where they have forecasting capabilities.
2. Communicate the risks of flooding to those at risk.
3. Provide advice on what to do before, during and after flooding.
4. Provide information on river flood level forecasts when a flood watch or warning is in force on their Flood-line service
5. Issue flood warnings to people who are registered to receive their service*.

When flood warnings are in force, local river forecast information is available on the Environment Agency's Flood-line service; callers can listen to this information by telephoning Flood-line on 0345 988 1188.

The Environment Agency's website shows live flood watches and warnings in force; it is updated every 15 minutes. However, when a flood watch or warning is in force people should telephone Flood-line to listen to what is happening locally. This information is not available on the website.

** It is important that all properties at risk from flooding should see if they can register for the Environment Agency's free flood warning service. Flood-line Warnings Direct (FWD). You can register by telephoning 0845 988 1188 and ask to be registered. To find out if your property is at risk, you can either telephone Flood-line on 0345 988 1188 and ask the operator or by logging onto the Environment Agency's website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> and entering your postcode.*

GENERIC INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENT AGENCY ADVICE ON FLOODING FROM GROUNDWATER

- Call Flood-line on 0345 988 1188 for the latest information.
- Identify a safe place where you, your family and your pets can keep away from the floodwater.
- Consider gathering essential items together. These include warm clothes, blankets, regular medication, a torch, food supplies, a mobile phone and a battery operated or wind-up radio.
- Know where to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies at the mains.
- Consider moving electrical items and valuables to a first floor or higher position.
- Floods can kill. NEVER attempt to walk or drive through any depth of floodwater.
- If the need for evacuating your home is necessary, please cooperate with the emergency services.
- Stay tuned to local radio – Greatest Hits Radio 102.0 FM or to Social Media ie Downton Parish Council Facebook Page/Downton Now and Then Facebook page.
- Not all local authorities can supply sandbags. A full range of information on these products is available from the National Flood Forum website www.floodforum.org.uk. A selected group of product information is also available on the Environment Agency's website <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>.

Flooding from **groundwater** can happen when the level of water within the rock or soil that makes up the land surface (known as the water table) rises. The level of the water table changes with the seasons due to variations in long term rainfall and water abstraction. When the water table rises and reaches ground level, water starts to emerge on the surface and flooding can happen. There are some key features of flooding from groundwater:

- Flooding will usually occur days or even weeks after heavy or prolonged rainfall.
- Flooding may occur for a long time, often lasting several weeks.
- The water doesn't always appear where you would expect it to (i.e. valley bottoms). It may also emerge on hillsides.
- Water may rise up through floors rather than coming in through doors.



Flooding from groundwater is most common in areas where the underlying bed rock is chalk, but it can also happen in locations with sand and gravel in the river valleys both of which apply to the Parish of Downton.

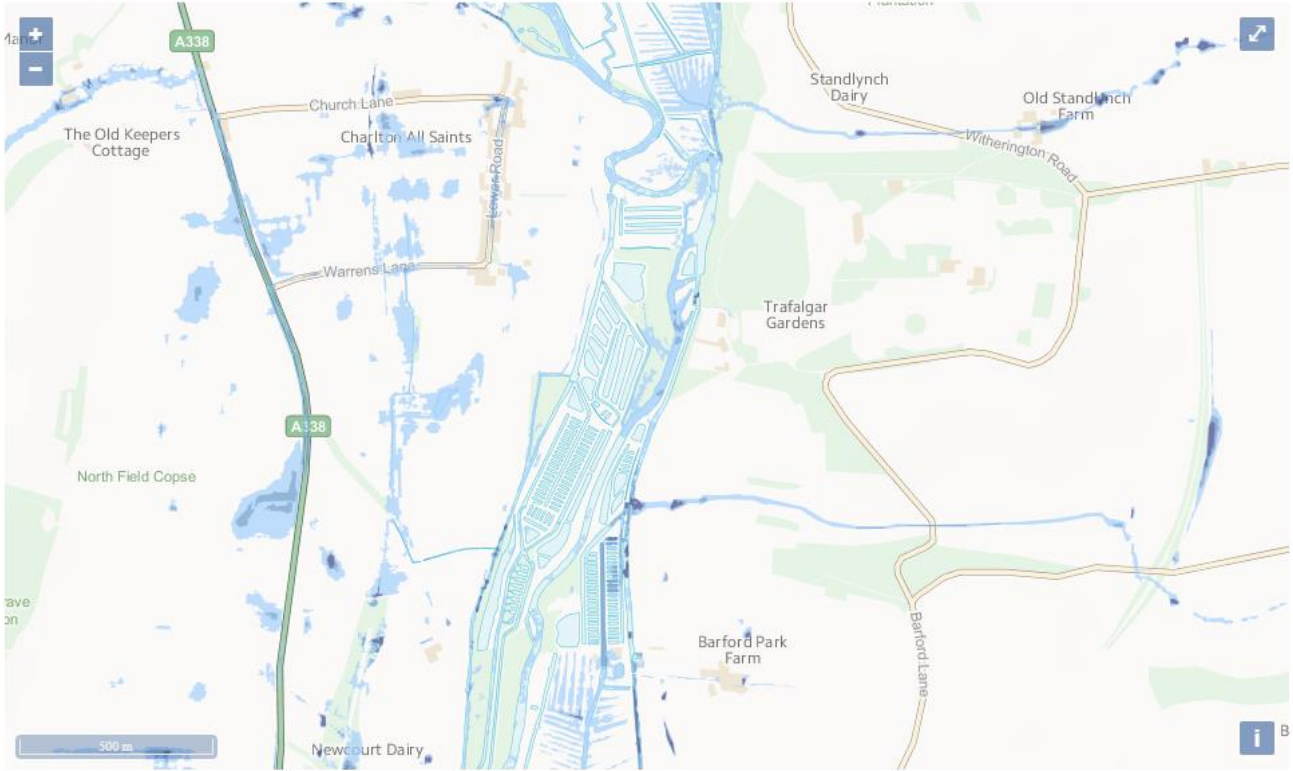
In an emergency follow these simple steps to help you stay safe:

- Check on other people in your household to make sure they are safe.
- If the flood water hasn't reached you, move your car to higher ground.
- Gather essential items and put them upstairs or in a high place.
- Fill jugs and saucepans with clean water.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so. **DO NOT** touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water. If you have an electric pump running you will need to leave your electricity supply on.
- Put plugs in sinks and baths to stop water entering your home. Weigh them down with a sandbag or plastic bag filled with garden soil. This is only a short-term solution. You may need to consider a longer-term solution such as non-return valves, as groundwater can be high for months.
- Keep listening to local radio updates or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or local on Social Media ie Downton Parish Council Facebook Page/Downton Now and Then Facebook page. Stay safe. Always listen to the advice of the emergency services and evacuate when told to do so.
- If evacuated, you will be taken to an evacuation centre run by your local council. Free food and bedding is provided and most will let you bring your pets.
- Bring spare clothing, essential medication, pet food and baby care items if you have an infant.



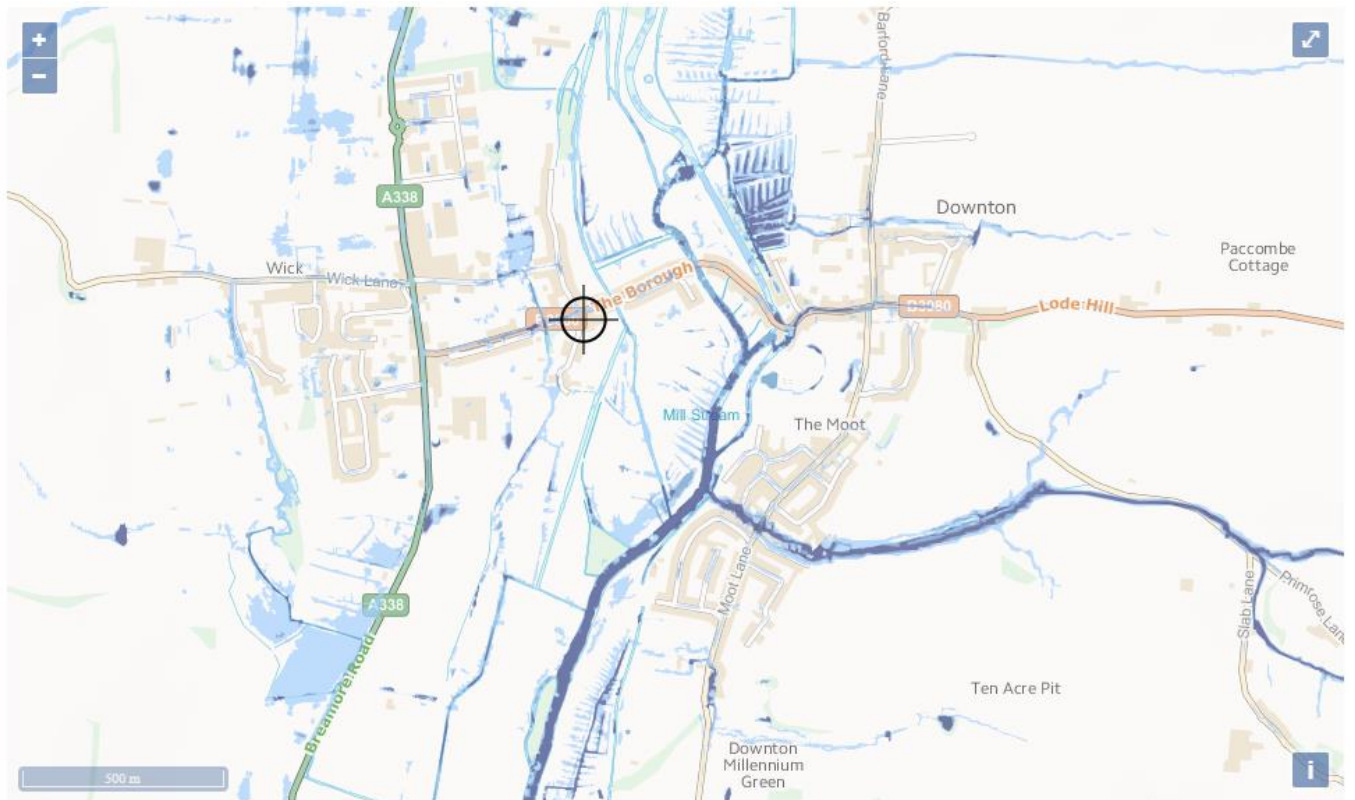
APPENDIX 3 – EA FLOOD MAPS (EXTRACTED SEPT 2020)

SURFACE WATER



Extent of flooding from surface water

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low
- ⊕ Location you selected

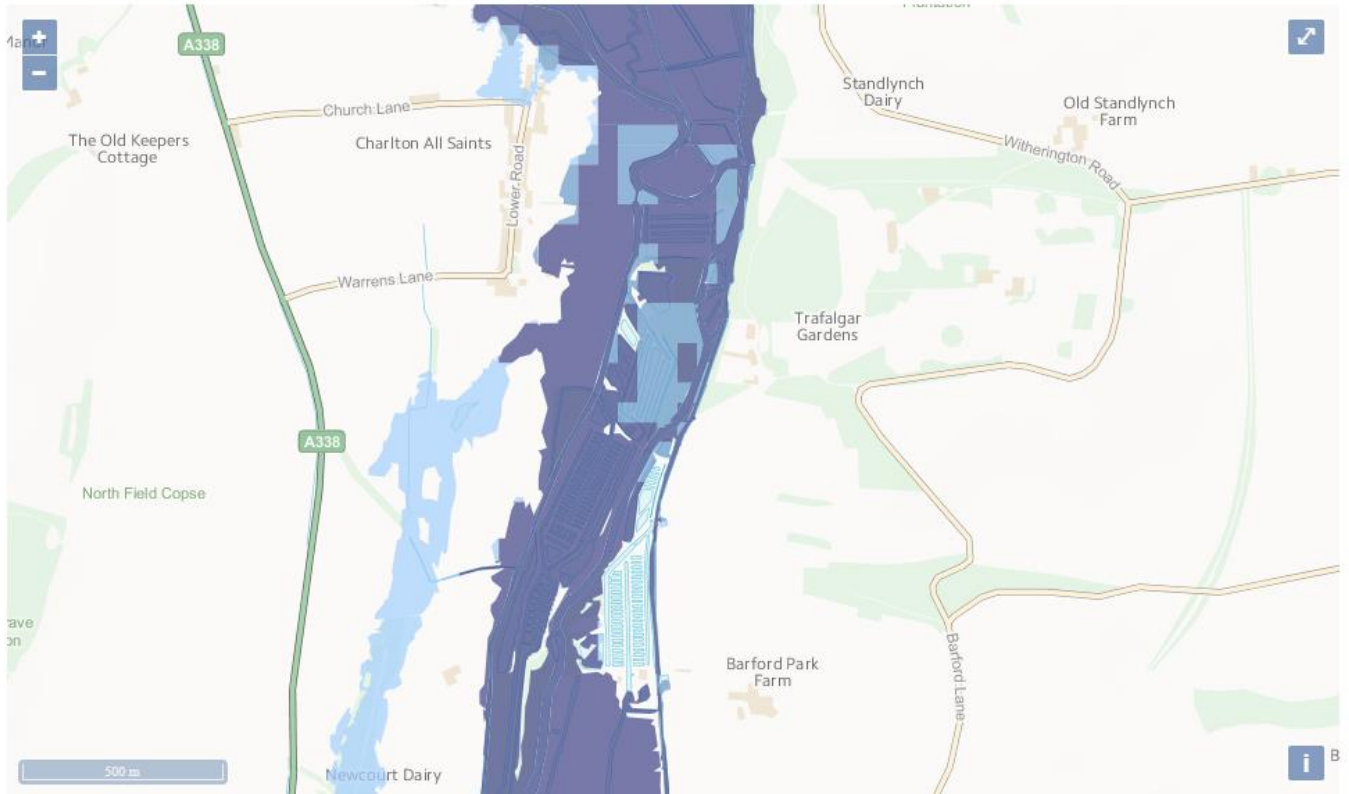


Extent of flooding from surface water

- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very low
- ⊕ Location you selected

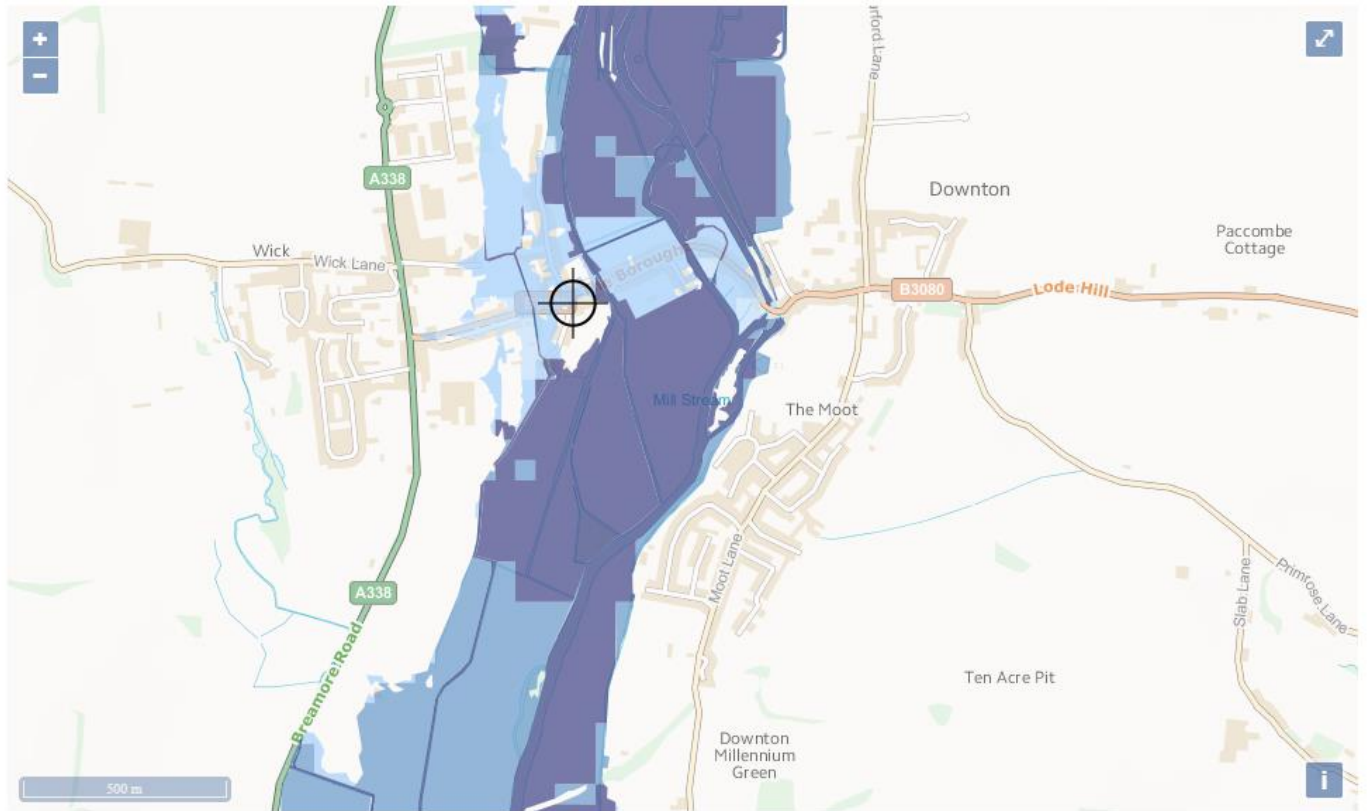


RIVER / GROUND WATER



Extent of flooding from rivers or the sea

● High ● Medium ● Low ● Very low ⊕ Location you selected

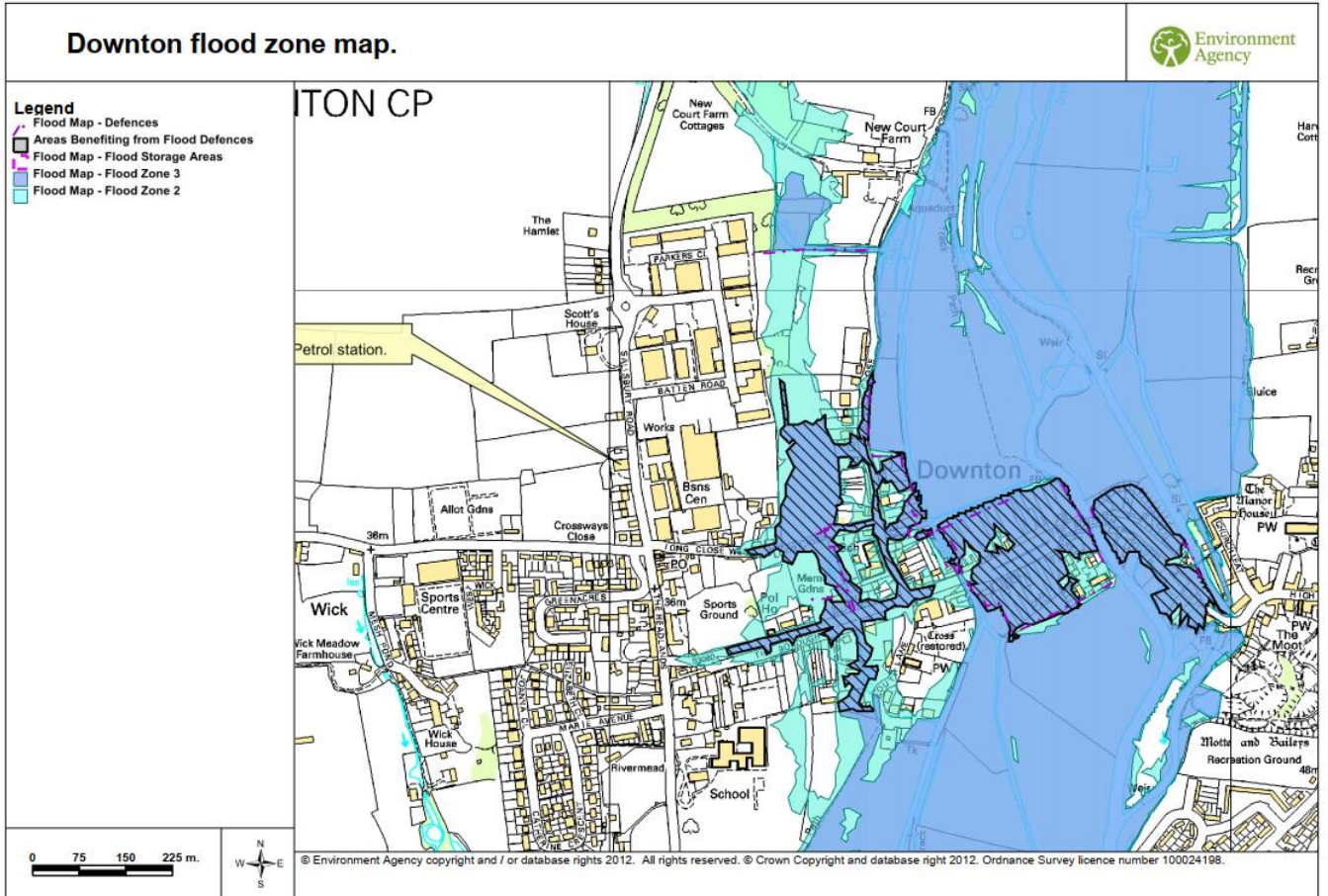


Extent of flooding from rivers or the sea

● High ● Medium ● Low ● Very low ⊕ Location you selected



Map showing areas at risk of river flooding (from EA in 2012)



APPENDIX 4 – HISTORICAL VIEW OF DRAINS



Taken from National Library of Scotland, OS map 1:10560 1949-1969

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16&lat=50.99337&lon=-1.75072&layers=193&b=1>



APPENDIX 5 - ROAD CLOSURES - PROCEDURE

Flood Wardens to decide which roads are recommended for closing and contact the following:

1. Wiltshire Police (dial 101 and ask for the Downton Neighbourhood Policing Team). In the event that Wiltshire Highways are unable to, or will be delayed in closing roads, the Police will deploy equipment stored at the Station. In the event that the Police are unable to assist, seek Police authorisation for the equipment to be deployed by Flood Wardens.
2. Wiltshire Highways (0300 456 0105): Request and identify road closures as follows.
3. Flood Wardens to arrange for road closures to be manned in accordance with the following locations:
 - The Borough at The Headlands
 - High Street at Moot Lane Corner
4. Inform the Police of the need to provide additional road closure signage (101). The Parish Council also has Flood and Road Closure signs in its store.
5. In the event that the Parish Council decides to close roads, having consulted the Police and Highways Agency, two persons should be allocated to each road closure at any one time. High visibility jackets must be worn and a laminated copy of the village map and a copy of the Police Advice below must be carried at all times (laminated copies of both documents are available at the back of the Flood Plan file). The Parish Council office will coordinate the release of all equipment from storage.
6. The Parish Council office will arrange for relief at road closures (2 Hour shifts). Council members should also be contacted to provide relief manning, as the need arises.
7. The Parish Council office will coordinate the return of equipment to storage when it is no longer required, and ensure its return is properly logged.

ROAD CLOSURE – POLICE ADVICE

Police and Highways are the only bodies that can officially close roads in an Emergency situation, such as flooding. It is usually the case that an officer mans these closures. In exceptional circumstances, it would assist police if 2 of the Parish Council members could monitor the Road Closure once it has been put in place by the Police. It must be stressed that such persons have **no Power to stop any motorist**.

The role would entail ensuring the closure signs and cones remained intact and to advise motorists of the flood and help with alternative routes to avoid it.

Health and Safety should be paramount as the **Police and Highway authority would not be responsible for any injury incurred whilst carrying out such a role**. The wearing of high visibility garments and the use of torches are recommended. Standing at the roadside and not in the carriageway would be the correct procedure and waiting for the vehicle to stop before approaching to speak to the driver is the safest course of action. If a vehicle fails to comply with the Road Closure, then please record the date and time, the registration number, make of vehicle, and a very brief description of the driver (male/female) as this could be used by the Police in possible future action against the driver.



APPENDIX 6 – ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MAIN RIVERS MAP

The Environment Agency defines Main Rivers on its website -

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=17cd53dfc524433980cc333726a56386>

A Main River is one that the Environment Agency has identified as being critical to effective and efficient management of water. The EA is the planning authority for Main Rivers.

APPENDIX 7 – FLOOD WARDENS AREA DETAILS

Flood Warden	Area
Chris Parry	The Borough to the Coop
Glyn Parry	The Borough to the Coop
Susan Barnhurst Davies	Wick Lane/Greenacres
Bryan Morris	The Borough from the Coop
Rick Ladds	The Borough from the Coop
Zoë & Cameron Freer	The Borough from the Coop
David Bennett	Charlton All Saints
Camilla Hickish	High Street
Nigel Walker	Moot Lane, Barford Lane, High Street crossroad

Key Health & Safety Information for all Flood Wardens, and volunteers:

If wading through floods, use a stick/pole to probe the ground before you. Flood waters may have dislodged drain / manhole covers and could be a fall hazard.

Wear appropriate boots, waders, and high vis jacket.