

FAG Report to the Hambledon Parish Council 06/10/21

The Flood Action Group has started the early preparation activities for the 2021/22 Flood Season, with planned communication for the village as a whole, along direct contact with property owners and custodians, where there is a risk of cellar flooding or over-flowing wells. We continue to monitor the situation with groundwater, and at the present time the aquifer levels are falling slowly with the recent spell of dry weather. Looking ahead for the next week or so, we expect an increase, which we will track to update our information to the Hambledon Parish Council.

03/10/20	BHD 42.800 AOD	Whitedale	32.579 AOD
30/09/21	BHD 44.890 AOD	Whitedale	36.256 AOD

No flood warnings are currently in effect, or expected from the Environment Agency at this time, however, with the fluctuating weather conditions and affects of climate change, predicting the Winter weather conditions is going to involve a high degree of guesswork!

1) Information to Property Owners who Flood – During the first week in October, an early information email will be sent to the owners and custodians of properties that are at risk of flooding due to high groundwater levels, or from wells that overflow. This is the first communication of the flood season, and we will place emphasis on “Lessons Learnt,” and the need to carefully inspect the defence equipment to be used. Checks must be made of hoses; the condition and operation of pumps; proper fittings (+Jubilee clips); and laying-out the various pieces, starting with the pumps in the cellar, through to the connection with the pump points in the pavement. If there is anything missing or unserviceable, set about purchasing the parts quickly as in an emergency many items will be in short supply. Where there is uncertainty, please get in touch with a member of the FAG for support. Making an early start on readiness will greatly reduce the hassle and risk if there is a sudden rise of the aquifers, as experienced in 2014.

1) Headwall, Catchment Basin and Ditch – Following pressure from the FAG and the Hambledon Parish Council, the Himalayan Balsam weeds have been removed by contractors provisioned by HCC Highways. No other clearance activities have commenced to date. However, following the very heavy downpours during the past week, a visual inspection of the outlet of the Big Pipe was made on 30/09/21. From the South end of the headwall, approximately 35 Cm of silt is laying in the Big Pipe, but it would also appear the mass of build-up of aggregate is getting higher heading upstream of the pipe. This is a significant obstruction to water flow, and HCC Highways has been notified of this observation.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group