

Report from Flood Action Group, 7th December 2020

Overview

The rain fall for November was less than October, and much of the heavy weather forecast for the month did not live-up to expectations. The aquifer levels have not been rising at the faster rate, as seen in the comparison numbers below:

29/11/20	BHD 46.580 AOD	Whitedale	38.506 AOD
29/11/19	BHD 49.870 AOD	Whitedale	39.979 AOD
19/11/18	BHD 42.810 AOD	Whitedale	33.061 AOD

As of this writing, Broadhalfpennydown is 3.29 m lower than the 2019 Ground Water Level (Gwl), and Whitedale Farm is lower by 1.473 m below the Actual Ordinance Baseline (AOD). (This datum is based on the mean sea level at Newlyn, Cornwall, and used to calculate the height above the sea level in the UK.) This information is “good news” for this time of year, but with our previous experience in mind, it could change as we roll further into December, and things could be different in January 2021. The Environment Agency is remaining cagey, and predictions extend for about 10-days at a time.

Ditch & Catchment Basin

The roads through the village were swept on 23rd November by the Council, which helped curtail the build-up of obstructions in the gullies and the Big Pipe. The Catchment Basin, however, still has not been cleared and continues to reduce the capacity of the BP to handle rain water in torrential conditions. Paula Edwards of Hampshire Highways is continually apprised of the situation, and we are getting support from Cllr Huxstep and Cllr Weston in an attempt to gain faster support. It would appear getting a contractor in to deal with the clearance is financially driven, so the risks remain.

It has been noted in the past few days that eighteen (18) new hedging plants have been placed along the green verge on the B 2150 in way of the damage from the vehicle plunging over the side of the ditch. It is not known who did this work, but every little bit helps to retain the sides.

Flood Action Group Membership

We have had encouraging interest in the past week for villagers wanting to volunteer their services, which we are following-up. We will be holding a meeting of the FAG in December to review the current weather prognostications, support for new residents and vulnerable properties, ongoing monitoring efforts, and readiness to deal with situations as they arise.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group