

# FAG Report to the Hambledon Parish Council 07/11/22

## Overview

The “normal” flooding season is looking a bit different than the last several years, with the aquifer levels continuing to go down, making predictions a cautious challenge for the Winter ahead! We’re looking pretty good insofar as surface water is concerned, as the gullies throughout the village have received a deep clean by the contractors working for HCC Highways. Their task was made much easier this time as proper and early notice was provided to ensure streets were cleared of parked cars on the relevant days. Our advice from the EA is still to be prepared for a wet winter, and for now and for the next few weeks, that is proving to be the case. It would be helpful if we had an alternate arrangement for getting local rainfall information, with Neil Mason’s set-up no longer available. This would be a valuable tool for us under the present circumstances.

As of 4<sup>th</sup> October, the aquifer levels, compared to a similar period in 2021, are –

04/11/22	BHD 42.770 AOD	Whitedale	31.341 AOD
09/11/21	BHD 48.650 AOD	Whitedale	40.829 AOD

**Headwall, Catchment Basin and Ditch** – There has now been a level of maintenance carried out by Highways, with the hedging and other activities in the ditch, but the catchment basin remains outstanding as of this writing. Estimating the condition of the big pipe itself remains impossible, and we can only assume there is significant blockage with the build-up of debris upstream. It has not been feasible for us to do our regular walking inspection of the full length of the ditch down to Hook Vinney, which will continue once the rains have eased-up. With much of the vegetation removed, examination of the East ditch wall will be a priority.

**Environment Agency** – Sadly, we received notification from Charlotte Creswell our contact point with the EA on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, that she is leaving for “pastures new.” She has been most helpful over the past fifteen years keeping us in the loop with changing weather conditions, flood alerts, timely forecasts and recommendations. Her replacement is Damen Funnell, and we will be arranging discussions with him in the coming days to re-establish a future working conduit for information. ([Damen.funnell@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Damen.funnell@environment-agency.gov.uk))

**Scheduled activities for the FAG** - It looks as though the groundwater situation is not going to be a major problem this season, but with the rapidly changing climate profiles around the world at this time, we must stay on guard for sudden extremes. Always in the focus of the FAG is keeping new property owners in the village informed, and those people who are considered to be vulnerable.

Should there be any sudden weather events, or unexpected emergencies, the FAG will stand ready and react as appropriate, keeping the HPC abreast. If additional information is required, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Jan Jarvie  
Chairman, Flood Action Group