

FAG Report to the Hambledon Parish Council 07/03/22

Overview

We are now about three-weeks away from the end of the 2021/22 flood season, and remain confident that groundwater levels will not be a problem in the foreseeable future. This will be that last report on the status of the aquifers until nearer the time of the beginning of the 2022/23 Season, but the FAG will still continue to monitor the data, and will carry on to liaise and receive updates on the weather forecast from the relevant agencies. .

As of 3rd March 2022, the aquifer levels, compared with 2021 are –

03/03/22	BHD 46.970 AOD	Whitedale	42.221 AOD
07/03/21	BHD 52.910 AOD	Whitedale	51.612 AOD

Headwall, Catchment Basin and Ditch – The silt and other debris collected in the catchment basin, stretching upstream into the Big Pipe remains, and has yet to be cleared. Although this lowers its capacity with heavy rainfall, there remains risks from sudden storms through the year.

The problems with the ditch banks and the condition of the hedge row adjacent to the B 2150 have been exacerbated by the heavy wind and rain from last week. Large amounts of soil have washed away from the trunks and roots of the hedge, in places as much as 20 cm of material from all sides of the root balls. There is also an increasing danger on the verge where there are now large gaps to in the hedge with no visible signs of new growth. People walking on the grass are very close to openings where there are unobstructed drop-offs to the bottom of the ditch. Members of the HPC would be well advised to walk both sides of the hedge from the foot bridge up to the headwall to appreciate its current condition. As a reminder, HCC promised to address the problem at the around the foot bridge in 2019, and have continually described their intentions and undertakings to monitor the ditch, and report on progress. No such information has yet been made available, or verifiable to date. We will continue to photograph and record our findings.

Should there be any sudden weather events, or unexpected climate changes, 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