

## FAG Report to the Hambledon Parish Council 06/12/21

We are now officially into the Winter Season, and over the next forty-five days we will be progressively aware of what the 2021/22 flood season risks might need further management. When comparing the data we collected this time last year on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, the level at Broadhalfpenny Down is nearly equal, and the reading at Whitedale is slightly above by about 1.6 M. On a day-to-day basis, both levels are slowly receding at this time, due in the main from a lack of rainfall over the past several weeks, and there is no heavy rain being predicted, so far.

02/12/21	BHD 47.310 AOD	Whitedale	41.260 AOD
<i>07/12/20</i>	<i>BHD 47.210 AOD</i>	<i>Whitedale</i>	<i>39.620 AOD</i>

Currently, there are no flood warnings in effect, and we expect to receive further updates on the forecast from the Environment Agency in the next few days. The FAG will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates as the weather dictates.

**1) Headwall, Catchment Basin and Ditch** – During the past few weeks HCC Highways contractors have been working strenuously to clear the ditches and other areas of concern to us. The ditch leading downstream from the dam at the catchment basin at the Old Forge Tearoom, has been completely cleared of all vegetation and other rubbish down to Hook Vinney. The growth on both sides of the ditch has been cut back, and the bottom of the bed has been re-contoured to provide a smoother flow over the entire length. This was a big task, and we are quite pleased to give our thanks for a job well done! The silt collected in the catchment basin and up into the Big Pipe remains, and has to be sucked-out. We expect this will occur over the coming weeks, and we also eagerly await the report on the condition of the ditch banks on the East side of the ditch as previously indicated by HCC Highways, where continuing signs of erosion are a worry.

**2) Clearance of gullies B 2150** – HCC Highways has responded to our request to clear the gully below Bury Lodge over the past few days, and in doing so has discovered four more gullies adjacent to that stretch that had been totally obscured under the verge by the build-up of grass and road dirt. Another “well done” for their effort, and the positions have been recorded for future maintenance attention.

The Hambledon Parish Council and the FAG are also pleased to advise that we now have been provided with a good set of drawings detailing the locations and identification numbers for all of the gullies in the village roadways. This is a valuable tool for us to give specific information to pinpoint exact location of blockages or other problems, and to plan for parking restrictions when cleaning is scheduled.

3) The members of the Flood Action Group would also like to express our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Tony Higham who recently passed away. He served as the Chairman of the FAG for a number of years, but more importantly must be remembered above all for his tenacity and hard work to make the design and installation of the Big Pipe happen. Many thanks old friend.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Jan Jarvie  
Chairman, Flood Action Group