

Flooding from groundwater

Hampshire

26th April 2018

Current situation

In Hampshire, notably high rainfall totals were recorded in March, with some areas seeing double the long term monthly average. Continuing with a wetter than average theme, one and a half times monthly average rain has fallen in April, with almost a month's rain recorded in the first 11 days of the month.

The table below shows rainfall data values recorded at Otterbourne Raingauge, near Winchester, up to 25th April 2018 (used statistically for comparisons because of its long term record).

Month				Hampshire at Otterbourne (near Winchester)			
	Total rainfall	Long Term Average Rainfall	% of Long Term Monthly Average	Wettest		Driest	
	(mm)	(mm)		mm	year	mm	year
Feb	34	60.0	57%	179.6	2014	3	1895
Mar	127	66.0	192%	183.9	1947	2.3	1929
Apr	78.2	50.0	156%	186.8	2000	0.3	1938

Currently, there are no Groundwater Flood Alerts in force.

Groundwater levels are above average for the time of year. In some communities, levels are very high and just marginally below a level where we would consider issuing a Groundwater Flood Alert for onset of road or cellar flooding.

Very high levels are currently being observed in Kings Somborne, Hursley, Villages around Andover and Pitton, Broughton, West Tytherley.

The natural recession in groundwater levels begins at this time of year. This will help to lower levels over the next few weeks. However, the current weather forecast, remains unsettled, with potentially very heavy rainfall forecast on Friday, Sunday and Monday. If the maximum forecast totals are recorded in Hampshire, then this could cause a further rise in groundwater level. A further rise in level would mean that there is still the potential for minor groundwater flood impacts to affect some communities this spring.

Please consider how you will respond if this should occur, checking that any pumps or flood protection equipment can be operated if required.

Groundwater levels are falling in the outer chalk in some parts of East Hampshire.

In West and North West Hampshire, levels may not begin to fall significantly until the middle of May.

We continue to monitor water levels closely.

Forecast risk of flooding

The current weather outlook for the next 10 days remains unsettled. The overall theme is for showers, some heavy at times interspersed with drier weather. Heavy rain is forecast on Friday, Sunday and Monday and is likely to impact large parts of Hampshire. Up to 50mm of rain is possible throughout this time period. This is a significant volume.

If this volume of rain is recorded over the next few days, then this may cause minor flood impacts in a small number of communities over the coming weeks.

A Groundwater Flood Alert will be issued to the relevant community if we think flood impacts are possible.

The graphs below show data from our key indicator boreholes. Current water levels (shown in red) are compared to long term average data. The graphs show data recorded up to 25th April 2018.

(note: data shown on these graphs are representative of groundwater levels impacting communities. We have an extensive groundwater monitoring network. Data from many sites is used alongside the levels shown at our key indicator boreholes to help decide flood impacts)

Customer service line

03708 506 506

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

Floodline

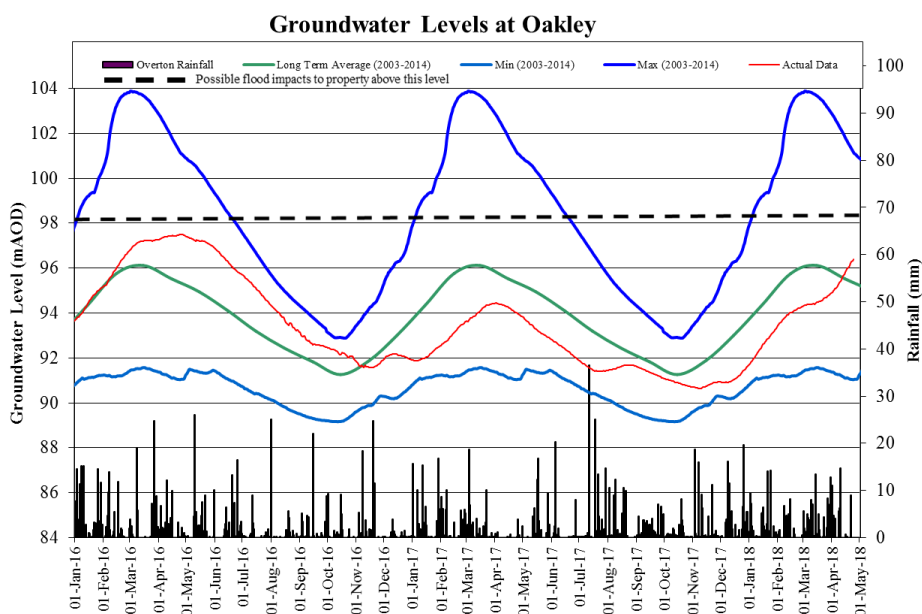
0345 988 1188

Basingstoke, Crondall and Alton

Groundwater levels are rising slowly but are still below Flood Alert threshold. With the natural recession of groundwater expected imminently, it is expected that levels will soon begin to fall.

Deane and Ashe, North East Hampshire

Levels are high, above long term average and still rising slowly. We expect them to stabilise over the next few weeks. Unless significant prolonged rainfall affects the Upper Test catchment, it is unlikely that cellar flooding will occur this season.



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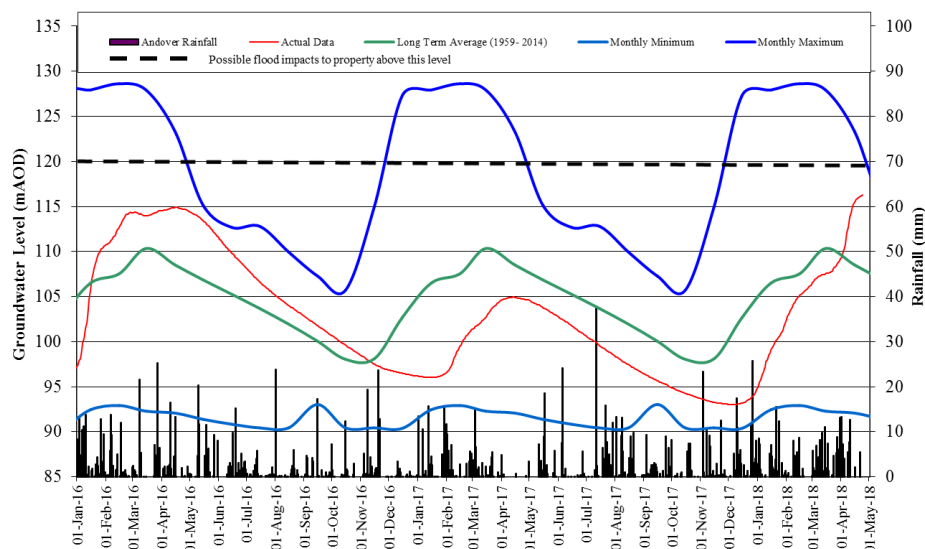
Floodline

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Bourne Valley

Levels are high, above long term average, and still rising slowly but we expect they will stabilise over the next few weeks. Unless significant prolonged rainfall affects the Upper Test catchment, it is unlikely that cellar flooding will occur this season.

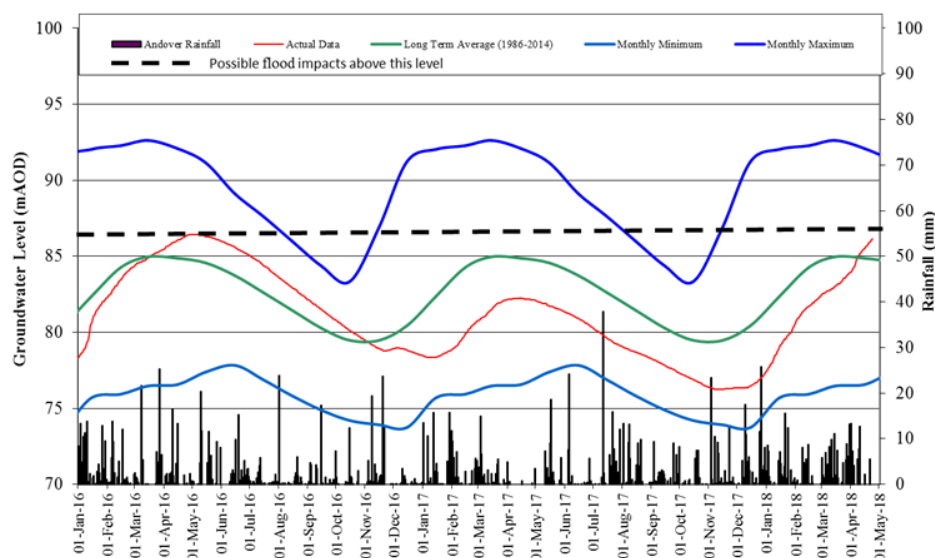
Groundwater Levels at Vernham Dean



Villages Surrounding Andover

Levels are very high, above long term average, and still rising. We expect that levels will stabilise over the next week but they are close to the threshold where with further heavy rainfall, impacts could occur at Penton Mewsey and Penton Grafton. Given the current weather forecast, there is still potential for impacts this spring.

Groundwater Levels at Clanville Gate



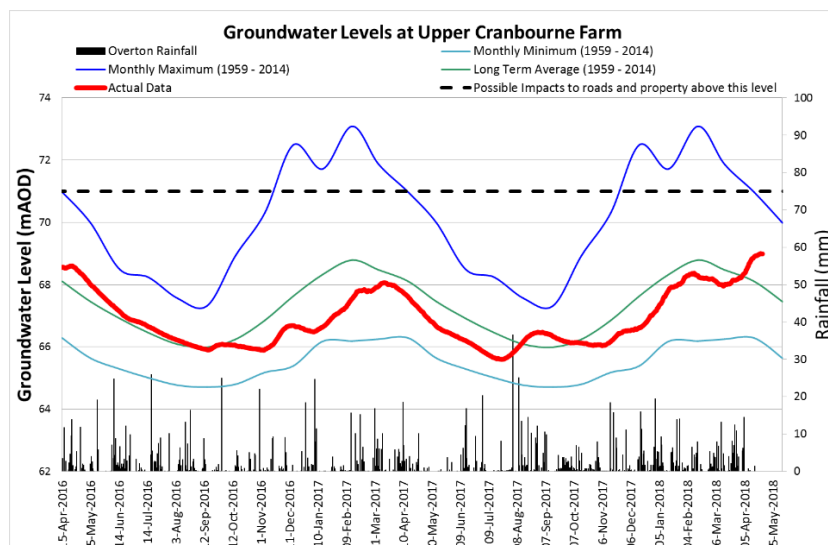
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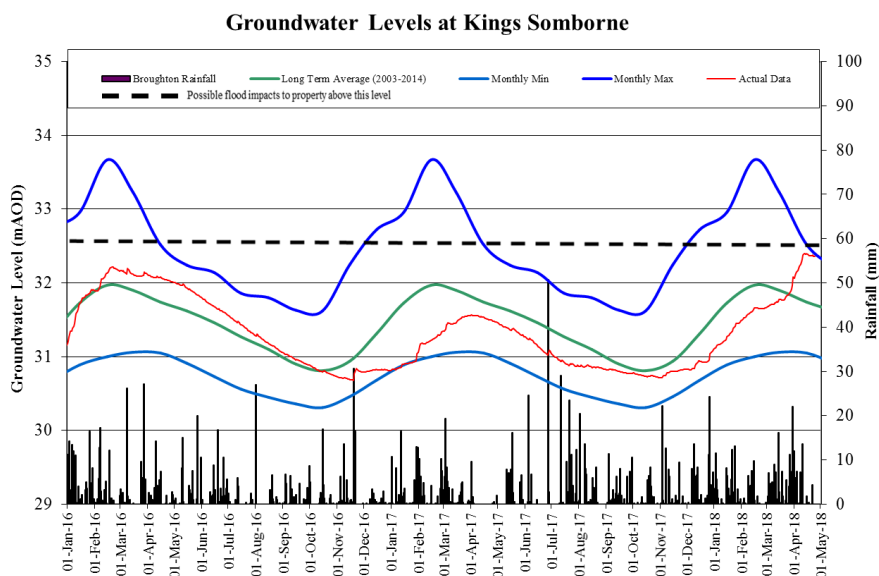
Sutton Scotney and Chilbolton

Levels are above long term average and are just stabilising. Prolonged rain would need to fall on the catchment over the next few weeks before levels would be of concern here. We do not currently expect impacts.



Kings Somborne

Levels are very high, only marginally below flood alert threshold. Levels are now falling slowly, but might still respond to the heavy rain forecast over the next few days. There is still the potential for minor impacts this spring.



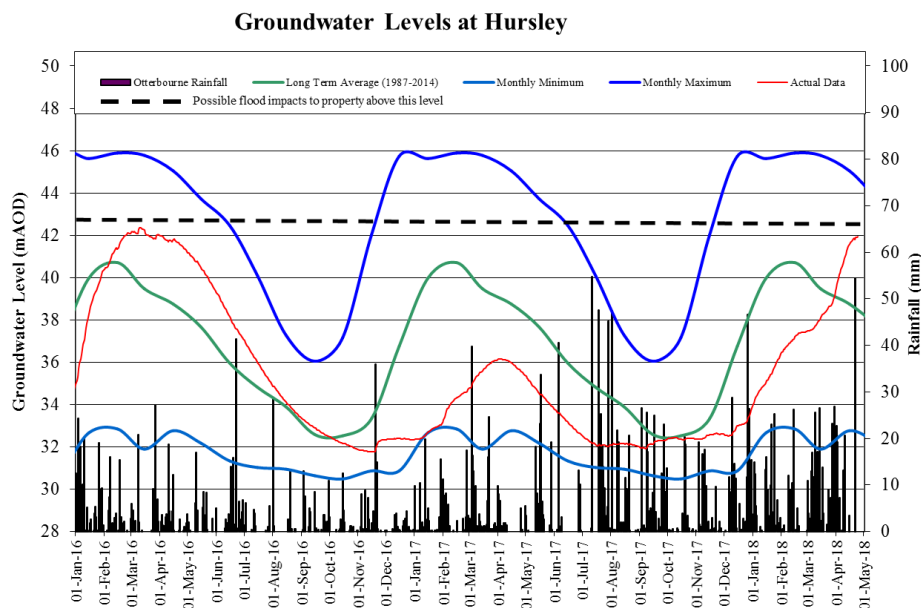
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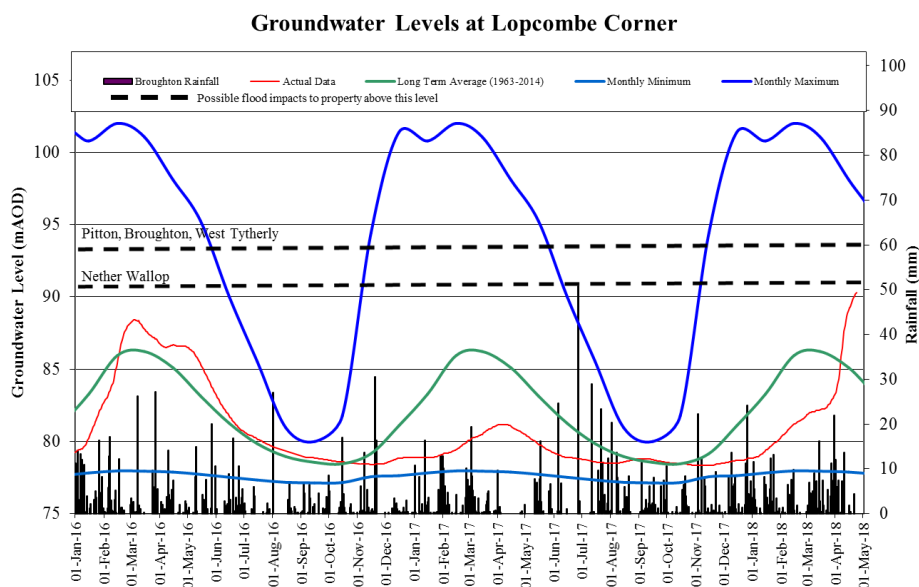
Hursley

Levels are very high and above long term average. Levels have just stabilised. As levels could respond to the heavy rain forecast over the next few days, there is still potential for minor impacts this spring.



Pitton, West Tytherely, Broughton

Levels are above long term average, close to flood alert threshold but have just stabilised. As levels could respond to any heavy rainfall over the next few days, there is still potential for minor impacts this spring.



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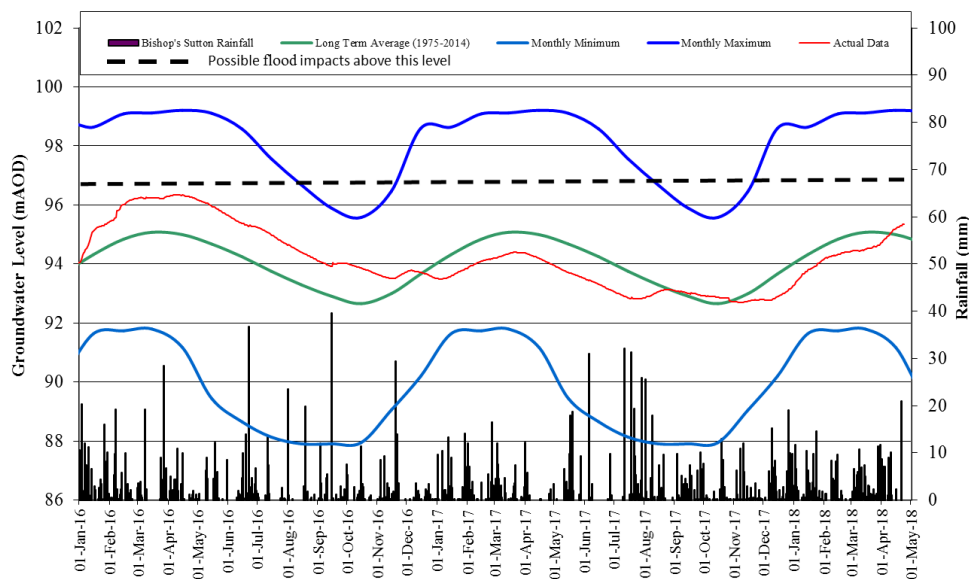
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Preston Candover and Bishops Sutton

Levels are just above long term average but are now stabilising. We do not currently expect any impacts.

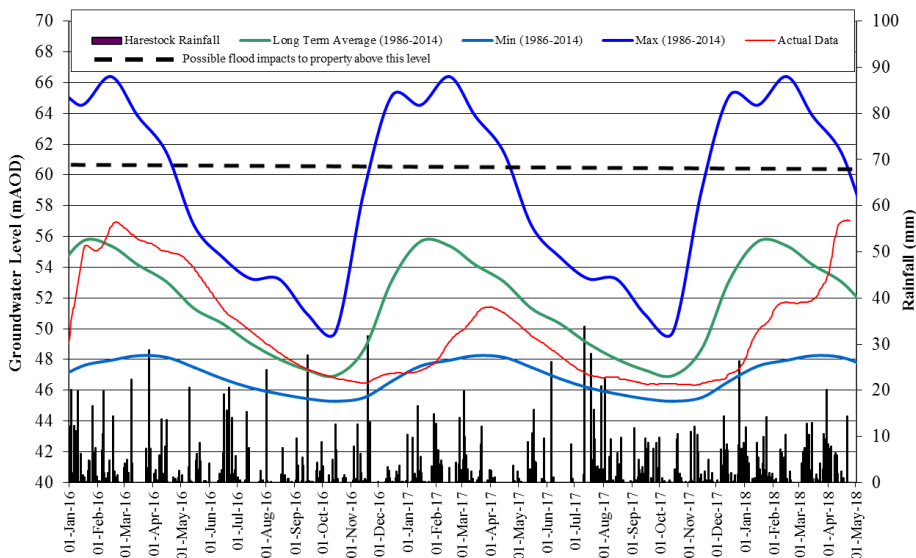
Groundwater Levels at Preston Candover



Kings Worthy, Headbourne Worthy and Littleton

Levels are above long term average but are now stable. We do not currently expect any impacts.

Groundwater Levels at Harestock Corner



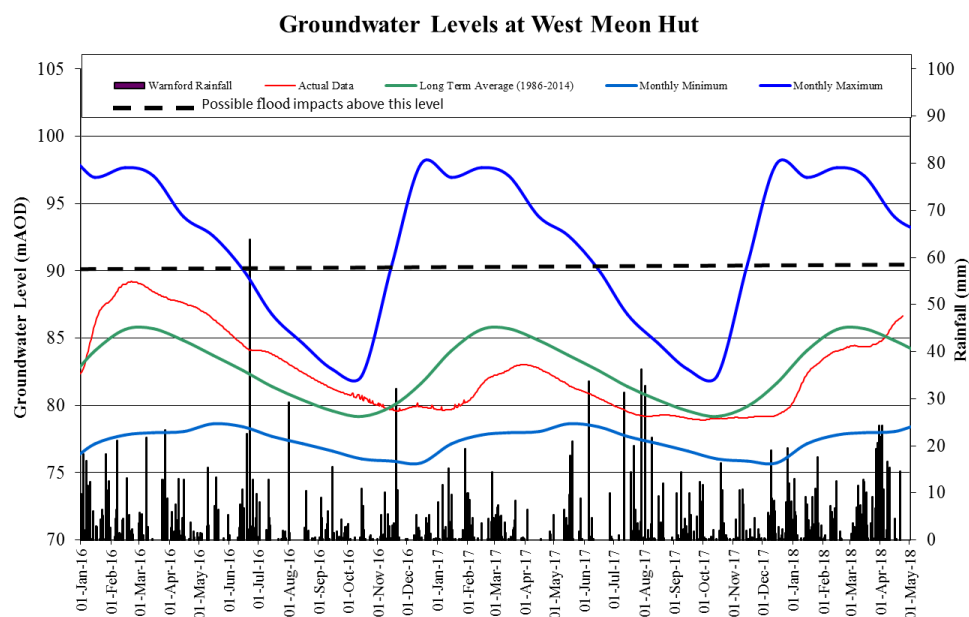
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Meon Valley, Bramdean and Chertion, Twyford and Hensting

Levels are high, above long term average and still rising slowly. We expect levels to stabilise over the next couple of days. As long as heavy, persistent and intense rain does not affect the area over the coming weeks, then impacts are not expected.



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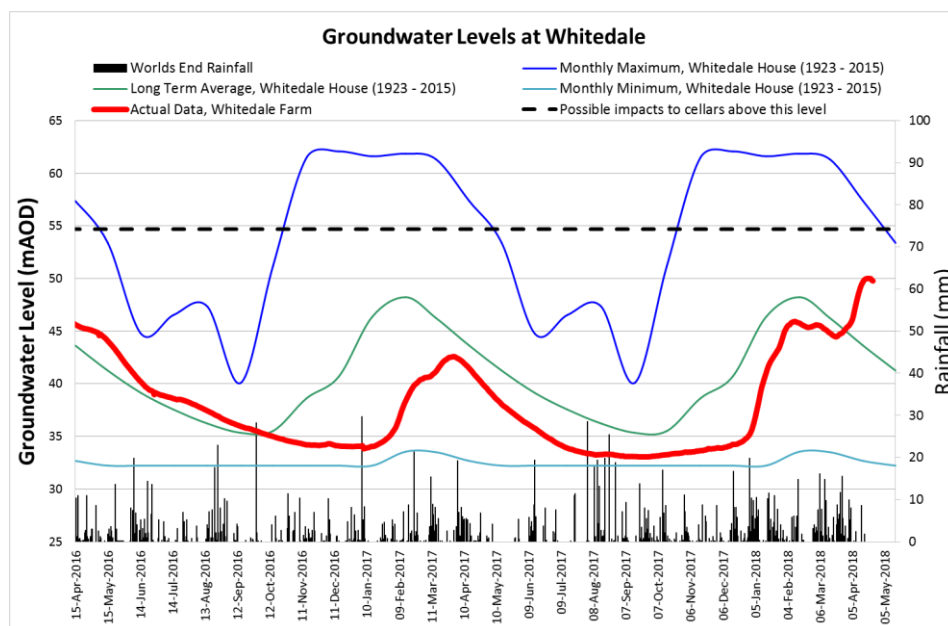
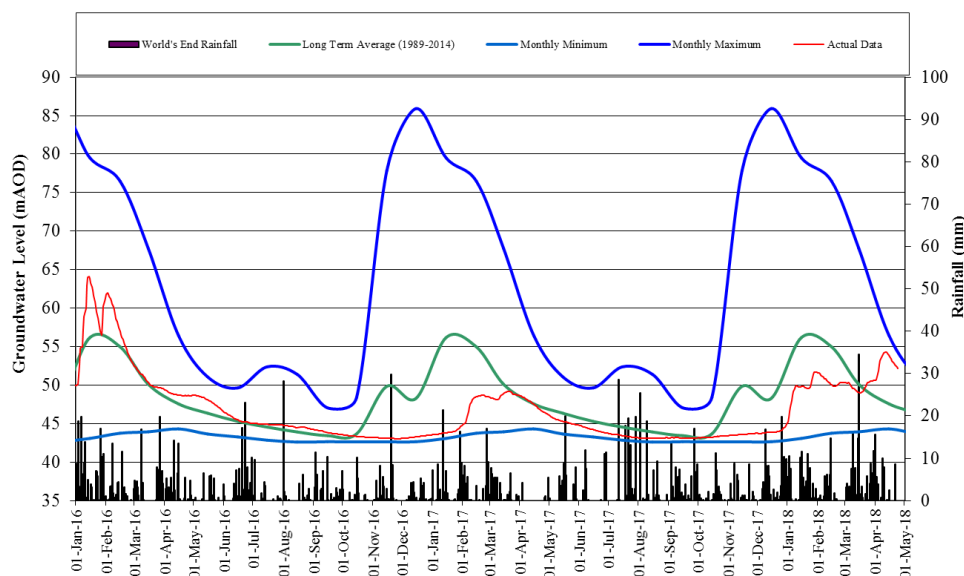
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Hambledon and Denmead

Having now responded to the heavier rain at the start of the month, levels in Hambledon are falling. The drier spell of weather over the last 10 days means that the level at Whitedale should continue to fall for the next few days, creating some capacity to deal with forecast rainfall over the next few days. With medium amounts of rain, levels may rise a little. As long as 50mm totals are not recorded in the next few days, it is unlikely that cellar flooding will impact the community over the coming weeks.

At Denmead, levels are high but not of current concern.

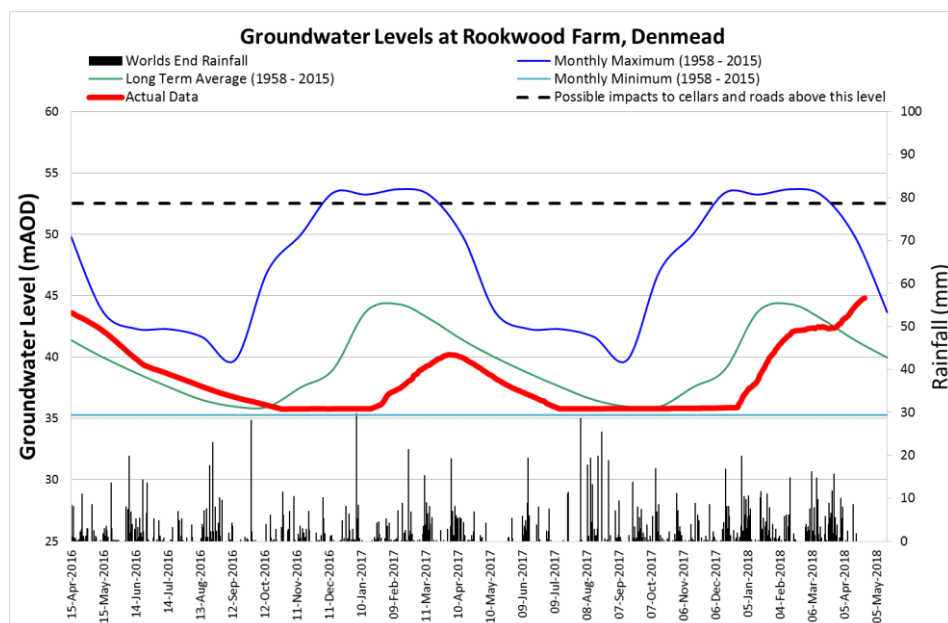
Groundwater Levels at Broadhalfpenny Down



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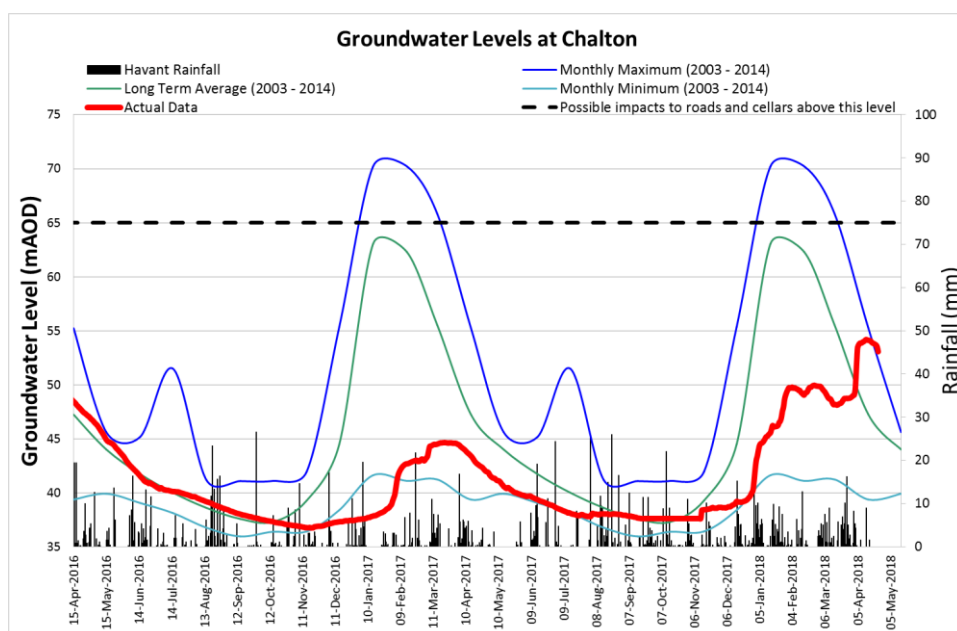
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Finchdean and Rowlands Castle

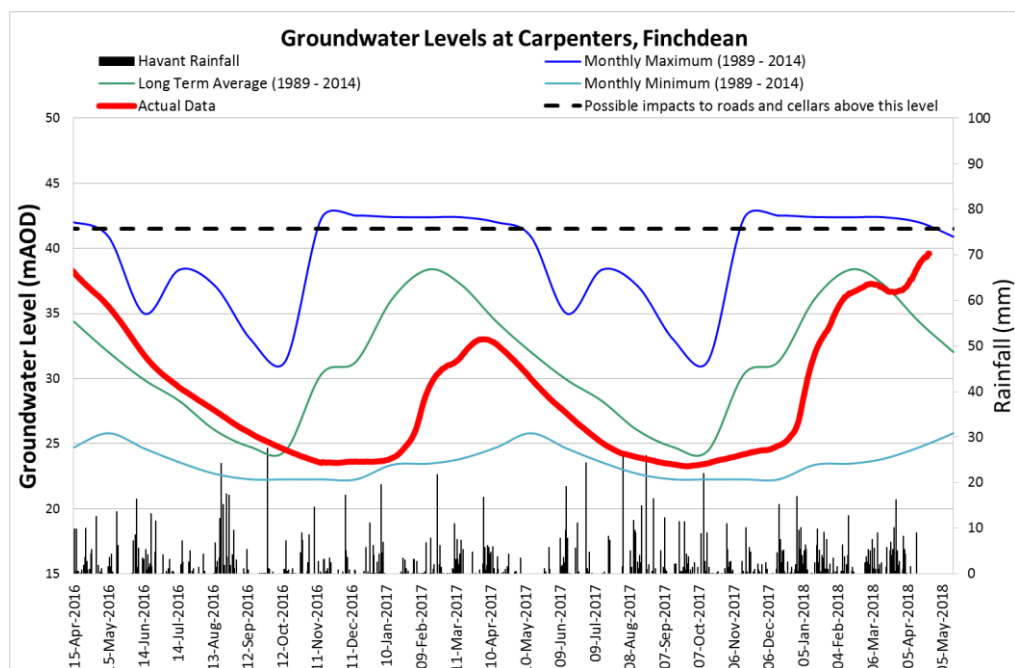
Levels at Chalton are now falling. At Carpenters in Finchdean, levels are starting to stabilise and are still 2.5m away from road flooding impacts. Similar to Hambledon, medium amounts of rain over the next few days may cause levels to rise a little. As long as 50mm of rain does not fall over the next few days it is unlikely that groundwater flooding will affect roads and property in the community this season.



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What we're doing

We will continue to monitor the levels and their response to further rainfall. We will be using our technical knowledge and experience alongside our flooding procedures to assess the risk of flooding.

We will issue Flood Alerts to communities when flood risk to property increases.

Actions and Advice

1. We offer a Groundwater Flood Alert service for the following locations. If you want to receive Groundwater Flood Alerts then please ensure you register and that your contact details are up to date. If you wish to amend your registration then call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 (24 hour service) or go online at <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>.

Bucksin, Basingstoke and Sherborne St John
Alton and Lower Farringdon
Crandall
Deane and Ashe in North Hampshire
Vernham Dean and Bourne Valley
Villages surrounding Andover
Kings Somborne and Little Somborne
Pitton, West Tytherly, Broughton and Nether Wallop
Sutton Scotney and Chilbolton
The Candovers and Old Alresford

Bishops Sutton
Bramdean and Cheriton
Hensting and Twyford
Kings Worthy, Headbourne Worthy and Littleton
Hursley
Meon Valley
Hambleton
Finchdean and Rowlands Castle
Denmead

2. We encourage Parishes at risk to develop a community Flood Plan, identifying local issues and working with the different agencies to prepare for and respond to flooding should it occur.

3. Where safe to do so, Parish Flood Action Groups may wish to walk local watercourses and check ditches to ensure there are no blockages.

4. Property owners should think about what you'll do if flooding occurs where you live, don't wait until flooding happens. We have a [leaflet](#) offering practical advice to help you reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater.

5. Please make sure you are familiar with where to view groundwater data and information on our website (see links in the section below).

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Further Important Information

Daily groundwater and river levels are available on Gaugemap, www.Gaugemap.co.uk
Please note that the data displayed on Gaugemap is raw data and is not quality assured.

The latest Flood Alert information can be found on the GOV.UK website at:
<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/map>

You can see our weekly groundwater level graphs on the GOV.UK website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weekly-water-levels-hampshire-west-sussex-and-isle-of-wight>

We also publish a water situation report which can be found on the GOV.UK website at:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-situation-report-south-east>

Contacts

If you would like any further information on groundwater levels please contact us by emailing
ssdenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk.

For any queries about our Flood Warning Service please contact Charlotte Creswell on 0208 4745837 or email Charlotte.cresswell@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Next Groundwater Briefing Note Update

Irrespective of Briefing Note update date, Groundwater Flood Alerts will be issued to relevant communities if they are required.

This briefing note will be updated by 11th May 2018.

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