

FAG Report to the Hambledon Parish Council 01/11/21

The Flood Action Group is now well into the required activities and actions for the 2021/22 Flood Season. We continue to monitor the situation with groundwater, and other indicators with the levels starting to climb at a more rapid pace.

28/10/21	BHD 48.010 AOD	Whitedale	38.764 AOD
29/11/20	BHD 46.580 AOD	Whitedale	38.506 AOD

There are no flood warnings are currently in effect, but we have received advice from Charlotte Creswell of the Environment Agency:

“The groundwater level at BHP and Whitedale are much higher than average for the time of year. BHP by ~3.5 metres and Whitedale by nearly 3.6 metres.

We are now of course getting to the more critical time of year, where vegetation is shedding leaves and becoming dormant. So with any heavy rain will see the groundwater level rise more rapidly.

We have unsettled weather (more rain expected) this weekend.

The met office long range forecast for November is currently suggesting a continuation of unsettled weather. It sounds similar to how it has been over the last few weeks with a few days of dry weather, interspersed with a few days of heavy showers. The critical part will be how heavy any heavy showers in the next few weeks are.

We still have a little way to go before panicking but will need to be very mindful of November’s weather, given how wet this year has been generally.

If the forecast suggests anything that I’m imminently worried about then I’ll give you [the FAG] a call. If not, let’s see where we are in a few weeks’ time.”

1) Headwall, Catchment Basin and Ditch – During the past few weeks HCC Highways contractors have trimmed the tops and road side face of the hedges. The field side bank growth was not removed, nor was the bottom of the ditch cleared of rubbish down to Hook Vinney. We have had at least two heavy sessions of rain totalling over 100 mm, which puts greater pressure on the ditch banks from velocity and volume of water, and continues to cause erosion and sloughing of the material on the highway side continuing to be a worry. We have been advised that the status will be surveyed by a competent person, but there has been no report to date.

2) Clearance of the gullies – over the dates of 26th and 27th October, West and East Streets were cleared of parked cars leaving an unobstructed roadway for the 200+ gullies to be sucked-out. The team from Conway were very happy with the effort shown by the villagers, and we were also very pleased with the result, which was completed to a high standard, and on-time. Whilst observing the process on both days, I was most impressed with the diligence and perseverance of the two-man crew in dealing with stuck grates, thick build-up of aggregates, and bits of paving wedged in the sumps (from years past).

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jan Jarvie
Chairman, Flood Action Group