Flooding from Groundwater

Hampshire

20th December 2019

Current situation

In Hampshire, there are no Groundwater Flood Alerts in force.

In East Hampshire, where levels are rising rapidly, a Groundwater Flood Alert will be issued for Hambledon today.

Communities where Groundwater Flood Alerts are likely to be issued over the next few weeks are;

Meon Valley
Finchdean and Rowlands Castle.

Other sites of increasing concern are;

Bourne Valley
Villages Surrounding Andover
Sutton Scotney and Chilbolton
Hursley
King's Somborne
Bramdean and Cheriton
Twyford and Hensting

Following 4 months of consecutive above average rainfall, groundwater levels are rising and, above average for the time of year in most communities. Following heavy rainfall over the last few weeks, groundwater levels will continue to rise over the next month.

The table below shows rainfall data values recorded at Otterbourne, near Winchester, up to the 20th December 2019 (this gauge is used statistically for comparisons because of its very long term record).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total rainfall</th>
<th>Long Term Average Rainfall</th>
<th>% of Long Term Monthly Average</th>
<th>Wettest</th>
<th>Driest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>166%</td>
<td>233.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>184%</td>
<td>224.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>117%</td>
<td>244.0</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>245.9</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Forecast risk of flooding

The current weather forecast is for a relatively small amount of rain (7mm) to affect Hampshire today (Friday 20 December 2019). Heavy rain is expected on Saturday night (up to 20mm), with an unsettled outlook and further showers until Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24th December 2019). From Christmas Day, there is some possibility of a more settled outlook, but this still remains uncertain at this time.

In the next 1 to 2 weeks we expect the onset of groundwater flood impacts (cellar, road and field flooding) in parts of East Hampshire. In some other communities, impacts will occur in January 2020.

The graphs below show data from some of our key indicator boreholes up to the 20th December 2019. Current water levels (shown in red) are compared to long term average data.

(Note: the data shown on these graphs is representative of groundwater levels impacting communities. We have an extensive groundwater monitoring network. In our assessment of flood risk, we use data from many sites along with data from the key indicator boreholes).
Basingstoke, Crondall and Alton

Groundwater data for Basingstoke and Alton has now been added to the groundwater website.

https://sites.google.com/view/groundwatergraphs

Groundwater levels are just above average for the time of year and are rising very steadily with no dramatic increases. We are currently not expecting groundwater impacts in Basingstoke.

In Alton, much depends on the volume and intensity of rain affecting the area over the next few weeks. Further heavy rainfall could lead to us issuing a Groundwater Flood Alert in January 2020.

Customer service line
03708 506 506
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

Floodline
0345 988 1188
Deane and Ashe, North East Hampshire

Groundwater is slightly above average for the time of year and is rising slowly. Currently we do not expect impacts in Deane and Ashe in the first half of January 2020.

Bourne Valley

Groundwater is now above average for the time of year, levels are rising more rapidly. Groundwater has increased by 1m in the last 24 hours. Impacts will occur with a further rise of 13m and this may happen by January 2020 depending on the recorded rainfall over the next few weeks.
Villages Surrounding Andover

Groundwater is slightly above average for the time of year. Levels need to rise by a further 5 metres before impacts will occur. By the beginning of January 2020 we expect levels will be notably high. Some impacts may occur by the end of January.

Sutton Scotney and Chilbolton

Groundwater remains above average for the time of year but is rising more rapidly in response to the rainfall over the last few days. Levels will be notably high in the next 3 days. With continued rainfall, we could see some groundwater flooding by mid January 2020.
King’s Somborne
Groundwater is now above average for the time of year. Levels have risen by 0.2m in the last 24 hours and only have to increase by a further 0.8m before impacts will occur. Much still depends on the volume and intensity of rainfall over the next week or so, but groundwater flooding is possible in January 2020.

Hursley
Groundwater is just below average for the time of year, but is rising more rapidly in response to the rainfall over the last few days. It needs to increase by a further 5 metres before impacts will occur, this could still happen in January 2020.
Pitton, West Tytherely, Broughton

Groundwater is just below average for the time of year and levels are rising steadily. They need to increase by a further 10 metres before impacts occur. We are not expecting impacts in the first half of January 2020.

![Graph showing groundwater levels at Lopcombe Corner]

Preston Candover and Bishop's Sutton

Groundwater is above average for the time of year. At Preston Candover and at Bishop's Sutton, levels could be notably high by the start of January 2020. We do not expect impacts in the first half of January 2020.

![Graph showing groundwater levels at Preston Candover]
Littleton, Headbourne Worthy, Kings Martyr Worthy, Chilland and Easton

Groundwater is just above average for the time of year and is currently rising more rapidly. Levels could be notably high here by mid next week, with some impacts in January 2020.
Meon Valley, Bramdean and Cheriton, Twyford and Hensting

Groundwater is around average for the time of year and but only needs to increase by a further 5m at West Meon Hut before impacts will occur in Bramdean, Cheriton, Twyford & Hensting. We may issue a Groundwater Flood Alert in the next 1-2 weeks.

Groundwater levels at West Meon Hut

At Pound Lane, levels only need to rise by 1m for impacts to occur in the Meon Valley. We may issue a Groundwater Flood Alert in the next week.

Groundwater levels at Pound Lane
Hambledon

In Hambledon, groundwater is above average for the time of year and at Broadhalfpenny Down, levels have risen by 6m in the last 24 hours. We are issuing a Groundwater Flood Alert today, for onset of cellar flooding in Lower West Street by the middle of next week (23-26th December 2019).
Denmead
In Denmead, groundwater is marginally below average for the time of year. We do not expect to see impacts in the first half of January 2020.

Groundwater levels at Rookwood Farm

Finchdean and Rowlands Castle
Groundwater is now above average for the time of year and rising rapidly in response to rainfall over the last 24 hours. We expect that the Idsworth Lavant will begin to flow in the next 1-2 days. At Carpenters, the levels will reach notably high in the next 2-3 days. By the start of January 2020, we may issue a Groundwater Flood Alert for Finchdean and Rowlands Castle.

Groundwater levels at Chalton
**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. Keep an eye on the latest rainfall and groundwater levels on our website [https://sites.google.com/view/groundwatergraphs](https://sites.google.com/view/groundwatergraphs)

2. 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.

3. 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 you keep your contact details 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](https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings).

   - Bucksin, Basingstoke and Sherborne St John
   - Alton and Lower Farringdon
   - Crondall
   - Deane and Ashe in North Hampshire
   - Vernham Dean and Bourne Valley
   - Villages surrounding Andover
   - King’s Somborne and Little Somborne
   - Pitton, West Tytherly, Broughton and Nether Wallop
   - Sutton Scotney and Chilbolton
   - The Candovers and Old Alresford
   - Bishop's Sutton
   - Bramdean and Cheriton
   - Hensting and Twyford
   - Kings Worthy, Headbourne Worthy and Littleton
   - Hursley
   - Meon Valley
   - Hambledon
   - Finchdean and Rowlands Castle
   - Denmead

4. 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.

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

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

**Next Groundwater Briefing Note Update**

This briefing note will be updated by 17th January 2020. Some Groundwater Flood Alerts will be issued before then.
Further Important Information

You can view our latest briefing note, Flood Alerts, daily groundwater levels (compared to averages, minimums and maximums) and indicative impact thresholds along with rainfall data on our new website:

https://sites.google.com/view/groundwatergraphs

Please note that data displayed is raw and not quality assured.

Sub 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:

We also publish a water situation report which can be found on the GOV.UK website at:

A copy of this briefing note will be uploaded to our GOV.UK website at:

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.