

Flooding from groundwater

Sussex

13 May 2020

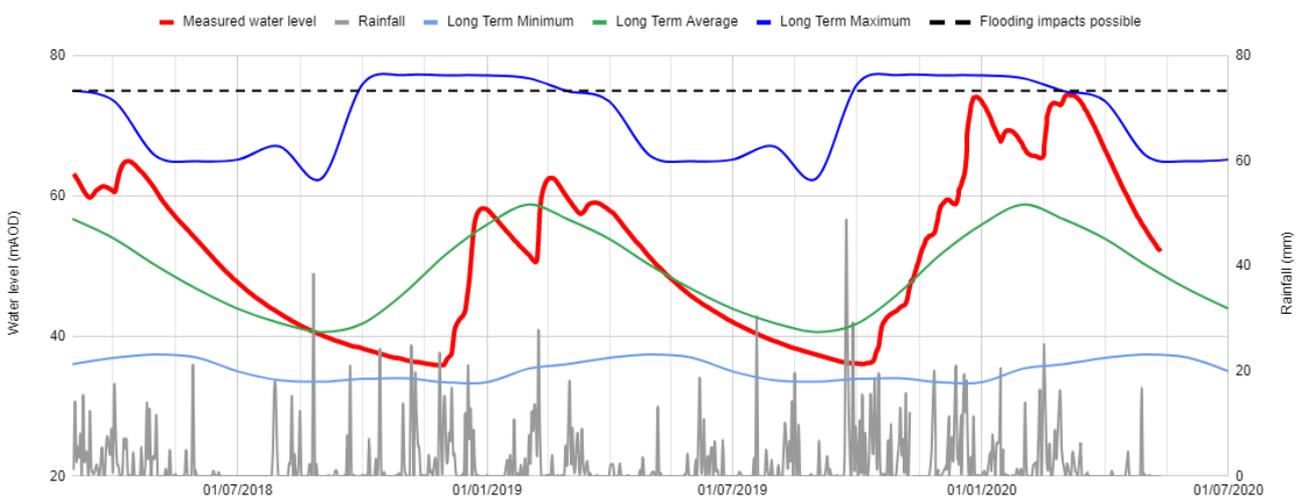
Current situation

April and May 2020 have been drier than normal. Less than half the usual amount of rain has been measured across Sussex.

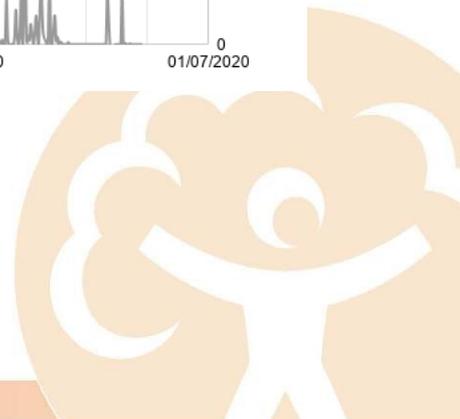
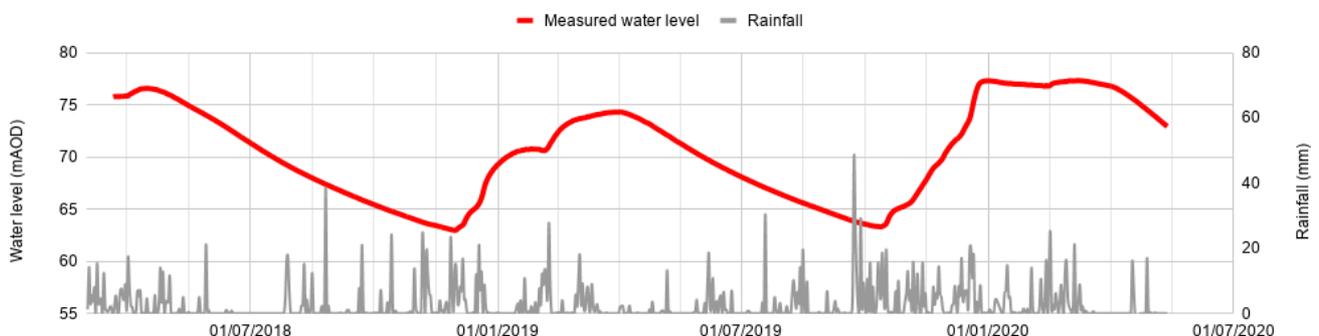
Groundwater has been able to continue its fall. Levels are now near the average for the time of year, and are a significant distance from the surface. There are no known groundwater flooding impacts remaining.

Groundwater levels above Chichester:

Groundwater levels at Chilgrove House

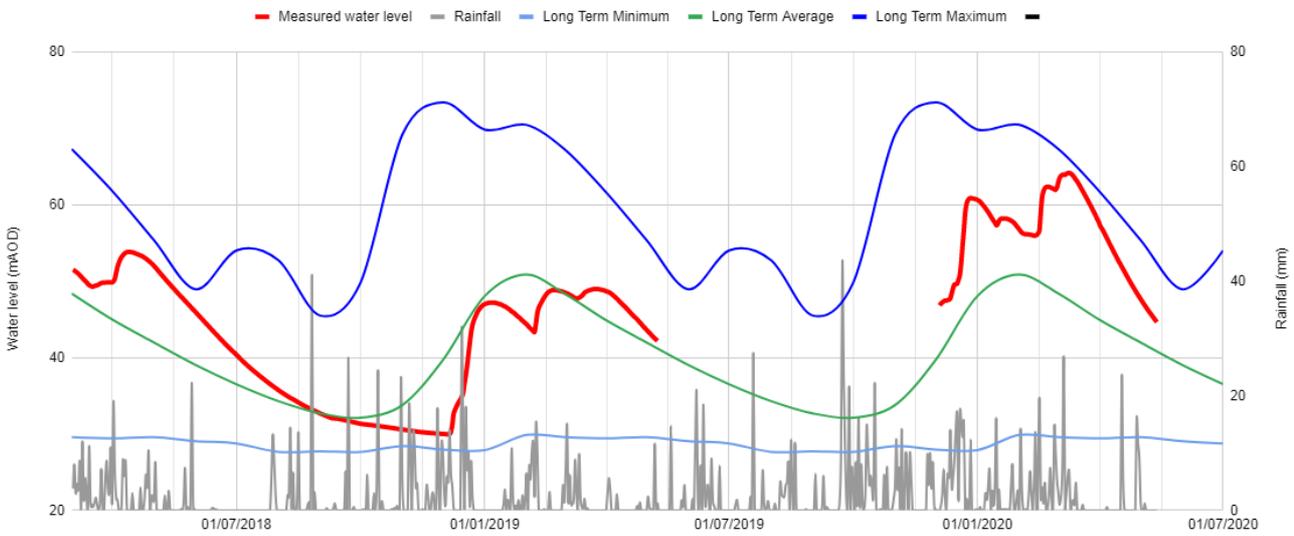


Groundwater levels at East Dean Butchers Lane



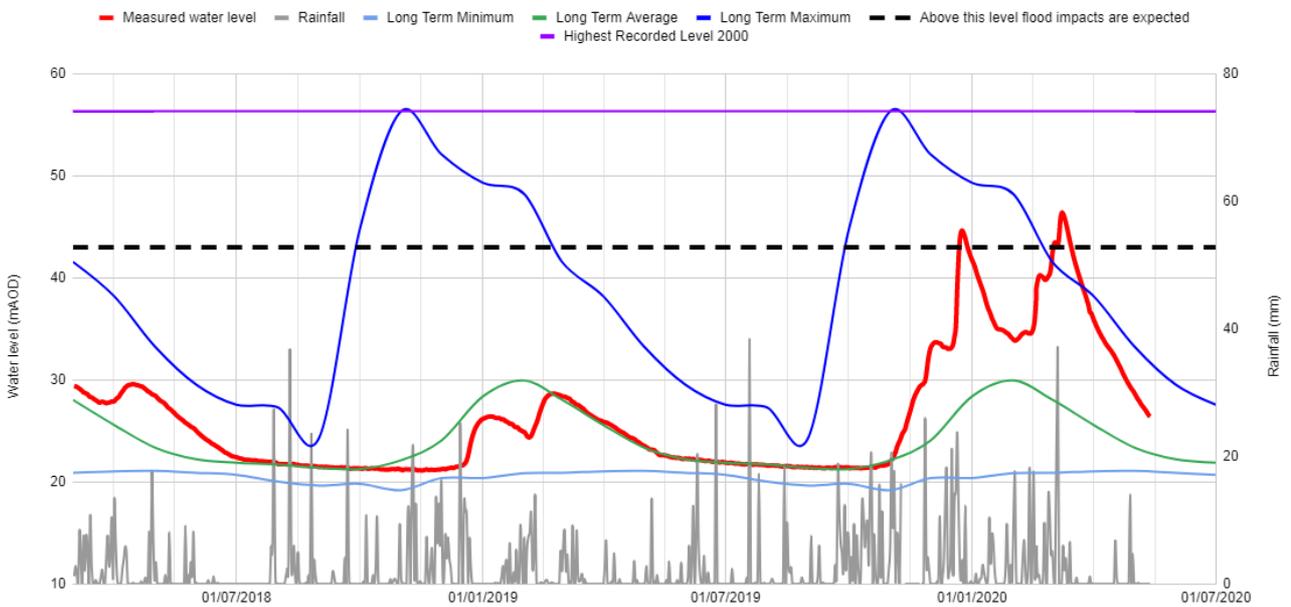
Groundwater levels in Compton, and near Stoughton and Walderton:
(please note, data was unavailable between May and December 2019)

Groundwater levels at Compton (West Sussex)



Groundwater levels near Patcham:

Groundwater levels at Ladies Mile



customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0345 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Forecast risk of flooding

High pressure is forecast to remain through most of May (and possibly into June), bringing dry, warm and sunny weather. There may still be brief showery periods at times, but even thunderstorms would be unlikely to generate enough rain to cause groundwater levels to rise. Even less likely to cause groundwater flooding, with groundwater so far below the surface.

What we're doing

We will continue to monitor groundwater levels, their response to rainfall and assess the risk of groundwater flooding. We will continue to share daily groundwater level data on our website:

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

But, with groundwater flood risk now very low, we will not update this Groundwater Briefing Note until groundwater levels begin rising again, flood risk increases and there is the potential to cause impacts to property.

Actions and advice

1. Keep an eye on the latest rainfall and groundwater levels on our website:

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

(see other links in 'further information' section below)

2. Think and prepare now for what you'll do if flooding occurs where you live, don't wait until flooding happens. Prepare a flood plan to help you and your community decide what practical actions to take before and during a flood, which will help reduce the damage flooding could cause.

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 areas:

Groundwater flooding in West Dean, Singleton, Charlton, East Dean and Chilgrove
Groundwater flooding in Patcham

If you would like to receive our messages, please ensure you are registered to receive the information most relevant to you and that your contact details are up to date. If you wish to register or 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>.

4. We encourage at risk communities 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.

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>

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

6. If you notice any impacts of groundwater flooding, please let us know. My email is:

richard.eastaff@environment-agency.gov.uk More information will help us to improve our understanding and hopefully provide an improved warning service in the future.

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Next update

This Groundwater Briefing Note will only be re-issued at a time when groundwater levels rise and have the potential to cause flooding impacts to property.

Further 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 website:

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

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

The latest Flood Alert information can be found on the GOV.UK website at:

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>

You can view sub daily groundwater levels on the Gaugemap website at:

www.Gaugemap.co.uk

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

You can view current weekly groundwater levels 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/collections/water-situation-reports-for-england>

This briefing note can be found on the Gov.UK website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/groundwater-current-status-and-flood-risk>

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 Richard Eastaff on 02084 745935, or email richard.eastaff@environment-agency.gov.uk

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