

Flooding from groundwater

Hampshire

21st May 2014

Current situation

Groundwater levels continue to fall.

Levels remain high in the top reaches of the Test and Itchen catchments and in some locations they are still a metre higher than levels recorded this time last year.

Dry, warm weather experienced over the last week has meant that the rate of groundwater level fall has increased slightly.

3 Groundwater Flood Alerts remain in force across Hampshire

Alton and Lower Farringdon

The Candovers and Old Alresford

Bishops Sutton

Pumping of groundwater from property still continues in these locations.

Forecast risk of flooding

Reasonably dry, warm weather is forecast for the next week, with any rainfall being in the form of thundery showers.

Given average rainfall totals groundwater levels will continue falling at a consistent rate.

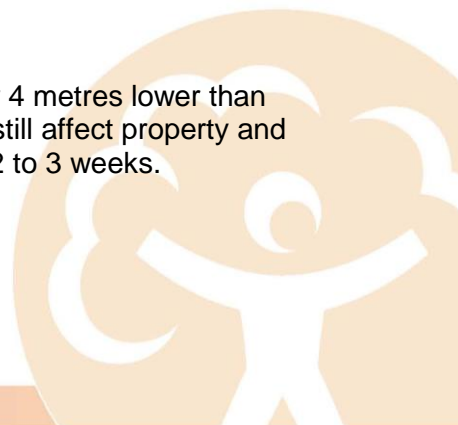
Impacts to property will continue for the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Below is a brief summary of the forecast risk of flooding for specific communities in the Solent & South Downs Area.

Groundwater flood risk for specific communities

Alton and Lower Farringdon

Groundwater levels are falling slowly and in the borehole at Farringdon are now 4 metres lower than the peak water level recorded at the end of February 2014. Groundwater may still affect property and sewer infiltration is still possible. Impacts are expected to continue for the next 2 to 3 weeks.



The Candovers and Old Alresford

Levels continue to fall at a rate of about 10cm a week. The level is now a metre lower than the peak which occurred on 3 March 2014. Properties continue to pump groundwater from their properties especially in Preston Candover. Given the rate of fall, pumping will still be necessary for the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Bishops Sutton

Levels continue to fall at a rate of about 5cm a week. The rate of fall is consistent but reasonably slow. Impacts from groundwater will continue for the next 2 to 3 weeks.

What we're doing

We will continue to monitor the levels and their response to further rainfall.

We are issuing updates to the groundwater Flood Alerts for relevant areas on a weekly basis

For those villages discussed above, we will continue with weekly monitoring at local boreholes, as well as monitoring the telemetry boreholes.

Actions and advice

To find out if you are at risk and to register to receive Flood Alerts for groundwater call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 (24 hour service) or go online at <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. Think and prepare now for what you'll do if flooding occurs where you live, don't wait until flooding happens.

We are encouraging 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 later in the year.

Next update

We will update the briefing note if the situation changes significantly. Otherwise the next update will be on 25th June 2014.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
0845 988 1188

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information

The latest Flood Alert information can be found on the GOV.UK website at:
<http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood/142151.aspx>

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 David Gaskell on 01794 834584, or email david.gaskell@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Groundwater Graphs

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