



Community or group: Cheselbourne

Updated 06.11.22

Floodline number: 0345 988 1188

If you register to receive flood warnings, the system will recognise your number and automatically direct you to the correct box.

Flood warning registered to receive: River and ground water for all of Cheselbourne.
Cheselbourne Flood warning code 111FWGDEV4

Background information

Cheselbourne stream is an affluent of the River Piddle. It is a chalk stream that is spring fed, arising in Ansty. The stream passes over and through a series of bridges and culverts on its route through the village. The lower reaches act as a 'winterbourne', i.e. it is dry in the summer.

This flood plan is in place to help deal with a possible occurrence of flooding in the village and *is based on issues that have arisen from the stream flooding in the past; this is a rare event but remains a possibility. Additional information is given as appropriate.*

Information within maps that relate to areas of historic flooding:

Please be aware that additional flood defences may be in place at some individual properties where flooding has occurred in the past to mitigate future risk of flooding. Any such individual information is not available from the Parish Council.

The catchment can react very quickly to heavy rainfall. This can be exacerbated by high ground water levels and can contribute to high base flow and groundwater flooding events. The catchment is very 'flashy' due to the nature of the topography and the geology at the upper reaches. Groundwater levels could contribute to a significant rainfall event and the ability or otherwise for the river to take up capacity in the channels. Snow melt can also result in a sudden rise in water levels.

Key information

All owners of property that have stream frontage have a responsibility to care for their section of stream and not put any other property at risk.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse>

One of the most important individual actions to protect the village against flooding, is to ensure that **no material enters the stream bed**, e.g. from hedge cutting or weed clearance, to protect the culverts from becoming clogged.

It is recommended that hedge cutting and clearing the banks is undertaken, where possible, when the stream bed is dry (obviously bearing in mind nesting birds) so that material is not washed into the culverts where it might cause blockages to the stream flow.

Chalk streams are a very special and fragile ecology. There are only around 225 in the world and around 85% of these rise from chalk aquifers in England.

Weeding of the stream bed should be undertaken judiciously, no more than 40% should be removed at any time to maintain biodiversity. Material should be left on the banks to allow creatures to crawl back into the stream bed. All material should then be removed from the stream sides as soon as possible in case of a sudden rise in stream level, from e.g. a summer thunderstorm, to prevent material clogging culverts. A different area should be weeded the next time. Within winterbourne ecology many creatures lie dormant when the stream is dry and weeding at this time may remove eggs harming re-colonisation. The clay lining on the stream bed is fragile and disruption to this allows water to leach away. Over-weeding therefore can harm both the wildlife and integrity of the stream bed.

Culverts should be checked regularly and cleared of debris, *without anyone putting themselves at risk of harm*. Flood wardens should monitor the culverts on their section monthly, where accessible. Please inform the flood warden ASAP if you have any concerns about a culvert.

There is a 'self-service' portal on the Dorset.gov website to report any issues with storm drains.

<https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/>

In order to ensure accurate and timely information is received, all residents who are at risk of flooding should sign up to receive flood warnings.

For further information in relation to flooding please refer to www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and/or the Environment Agency.

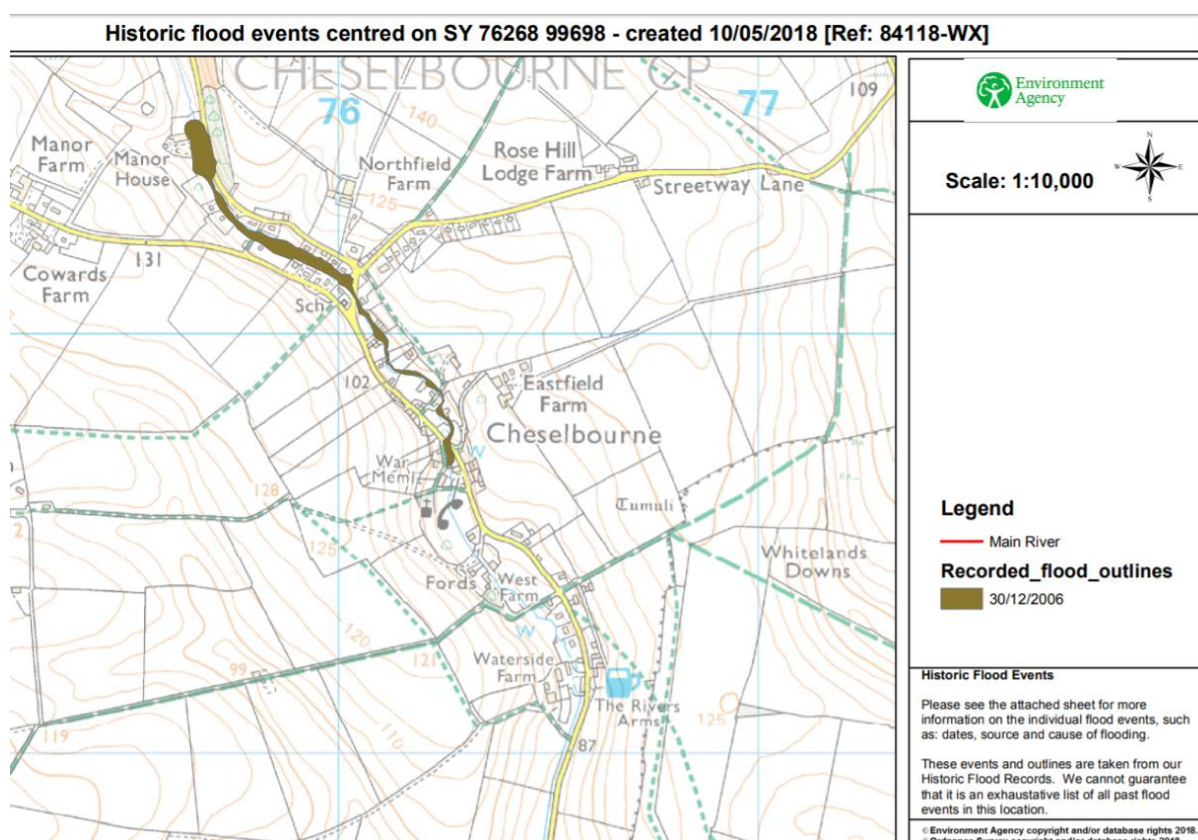
Some links that may be of assistance

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/emergencies-severe-weather/flooding/report-flooding.aspx>

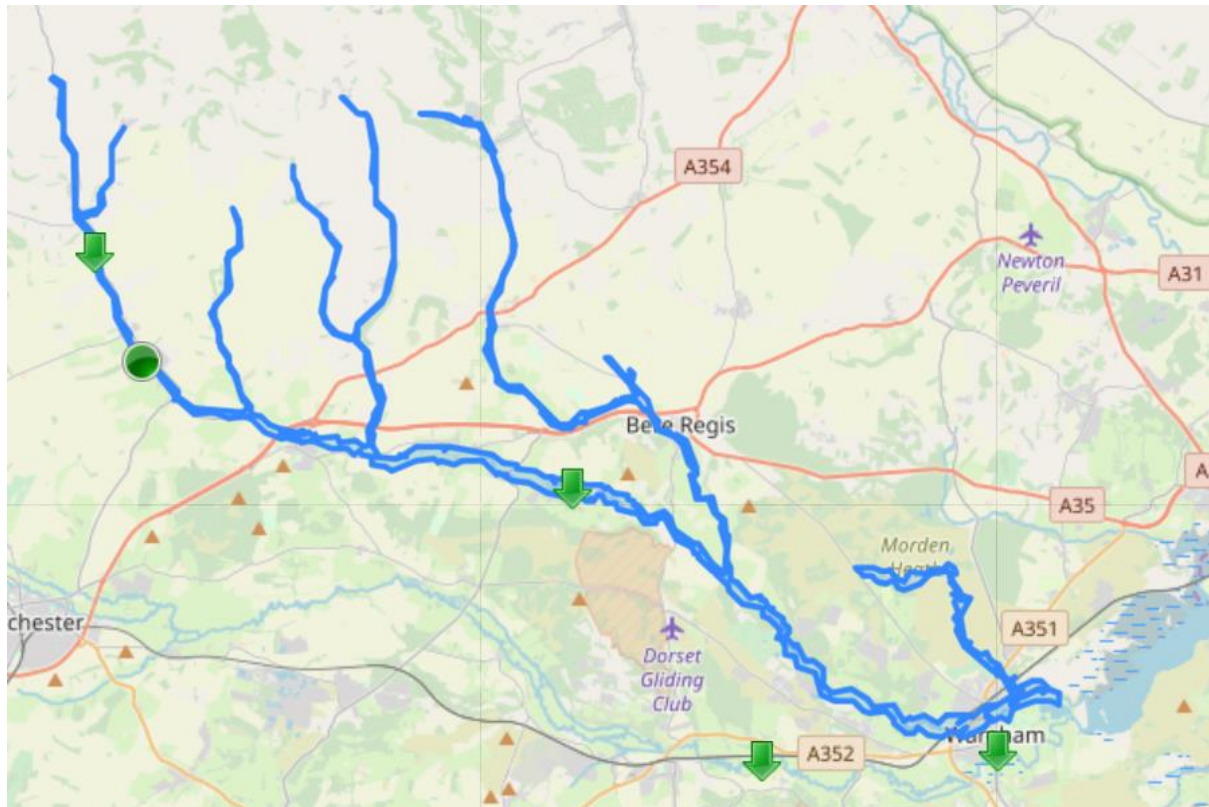
<https://explorer.geowesssex.com/>

[https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328231900/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/Flood Information Sheet - Your Questions Answered.pdf](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140328231900/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/Flood%20Information%20Sheet%20-%20Your%20Questions%20Answered.pdf)

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings?location=Dorset>



Flood warning area that includes Cheselbourne



<https://riverlevels.uk/flood-warning-river-piddle-and-tributaries#.XGrMeej7Q2y>



Flood Warden Team

Main Flood Warden & Coordinator: Graham Waters

Graham Waters sits on the Parish Council as flood warden representative and acts as overall coordinator:

Flood warden responsibilities:

- to ensure that an overall contact list is kept up to date, to include assistant flood wardens contact details, property owners historically at risk, volunteer helpers, ensuring group alerts, e.g. texts, as appropriate
- to ensure that sandbags are in readiness and volunteers to man the store are identified;
- to ensure that the school is made aware of any flood alerts;
- to identify any residents who may require help with sandbags;
- to ensure that the flood warden team work together to develop and implement the community flood plan;
- to ensure that any issues raised are brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

The Flood Warden keeps a list of contact details for volunteers who would be willing to help in case of flooding. (The list is in process of updating). **If anyone would be willing to help as a volunteer please contact Graham Waters (01258 837465 or 07904 584310)**

The village has been divided into **four sections** from north to south (see maps below) to aid monitoring and response **and there is a team of Assistant Flood Wardens to cover these sections:**

Section 1 (Northern section down to include Littlemead Farm/The Thatched House).

Graham Waters, The Thatched House 01258 837465 07904584310

Section 2 (Little Foxes/Orchard Close southwards to include the Village Hall)

Xxx (Poss. Ian Kear, Ashcroft 07855 126577)

Section 3 (Rose Cottage/New development southwards to Copse Cottage/Meyden Revel - formerly Eastfield House)

Replacement for Chrissie Skinner to be decided. TBC

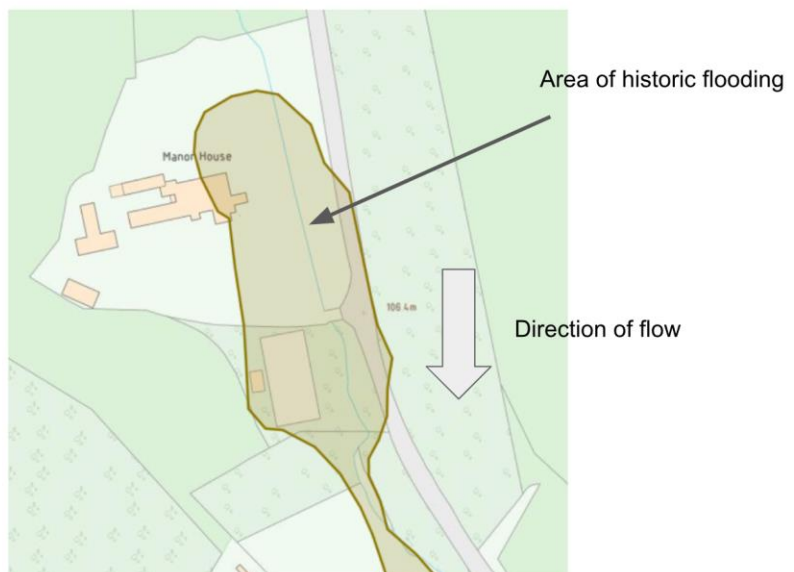
Section 4 (Southern section from Sunnyside Cottage southwards)

Sue Crabb, Staddlestones 01258 446323 or 07788 855249

Assistant Flood Wardens responsibilities

- to receive official flood warnings and cascade these when appropriate;
- to identify and monitor a local flood warning trigger for their section of the stream which are:
 - Section1- need to check with assistant flood wardens
 - Section 2- need to check with assistant flood wardens
 - Section 3- one brick down from the top of the culvert across the road by Copse Cottage
 - Section 4- one brick away from the top of the culvert
- to monitor the condition of the stream banks and bed in their section monthly- or more frequently if required;
- to respond to any concerns raised about the condition of the stream or its banks;
- to report any concerns raised about the condition of any storm drains;
- to know the properties and owners where there has been a history of flooding;
- to identify and maintain a list of volunteer helpers in case of flooding for their section;
- to identify anyone who may need assistance e.g. with sandbags, in case of flooding.

Section 1

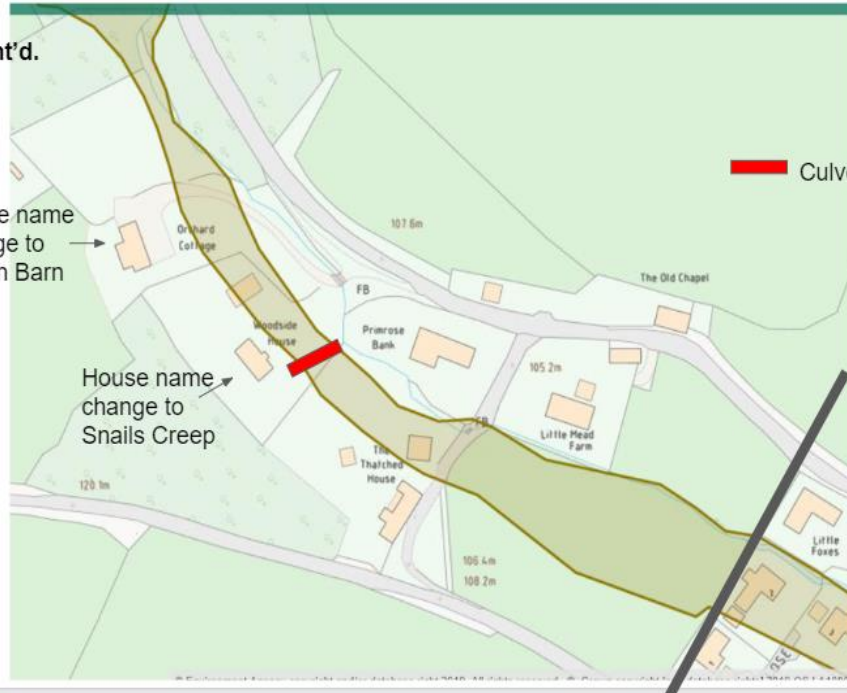


Section 1 cont'd.

House name
change to
Aspen Barn

House name
change to
Snails Creep

 Culvert / bridge



Section 2



Section 3



Section 3 cont'd



Section 4



Section 4 cont'd



Cheselbourne village school

Has no history of flooding. The school will treat flooding in the village in the same way as snowfall. If flood alerts indicated that driving conditions may become dangerous then children would be sent home from school early when appropriate.

Sandbag store

The central sandbag store is at present at **Meyden Revel** (name changed - shown on the maps as Eastfield House). Approximately 100 sandbags are stored there.

Residents are advised to:

- Know the flood risk for their individual property

If appropriate

- seek advice on protecting their property from potential flooding;
- sign up for flood alerts:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

Please note that flood wardens will not be able to contact individual home owners in case of flood alerts. Residents should sign up to the alerts to ensure they have due warning.

- put in place a personal flood plan.

A personal flood plan template can be downloaded from:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/444659/LIT_4112.pdf

Flood warnings - know what to do?



	FLOOD ALERT	PREPARE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare a bag that includes medicines and insurance documents• Visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk
	FLOOD WARNING	ACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Turn off gas, water and electricity• Move things upstairs or to safety• Move family, pets and car to safety
	SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	SURVIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call 999 if in immediate danger• Follow advice from emergency services• Keep yourself and your family safe

floodsdestroy.campaign.gov.uk



Floodline on 0345 988 1188 #floodaware

There are three levels of flood warning:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1- Flood alert | Flooding is possible be aware |
| 2- Flood warning | Flooding is expected – immediate action required |
| 3- Severe flood warning | Severe flooding – danger to life. |

Actions to be taken during a flood:

The flood warden team will communicate together and monitor their local flood trigger.

1. **Flood Alert:** Flooding is possible - Be aware

Flood Warden Action:

- ring Floodline 0845 988188 for further information;
- ensure all of Flood Warden Team are aware;
- advise volunteers that sandbags store may need to be manned – communication will be via mobile phone text, Graham will be administrator plus deputy
- ensure the sandbag store is ready and accessible
- alert volunteer members via group contacts that their assistance may be required;
- Ensure that the school is made aware.
- That each volunteer who has a designated vulnerable member of the community, that has been previously identified and is on the contact list, is made aware that help may be required via text communication.

Residents are advised to:

- monitor water levels;
- stay tuned to local TV or radio;
- ensure their mobile phones are charged;
- follow their personal flood plan;
- check they have all they need for protection of their property;
- check pets and livestock;
- ready a flood kit: it is recommended that this includes a torch, warm and waterproof clothing, water, food, medication, toys for children and pets, rubber gloves and wellingtons;
- advise their flood warden if their property appears to be at risk of flooding;
- Check any pumps etc. to check that they are working and to operate them when they see it necessary.

2. Flood Warning: Flooding is expected – Immediate action required

Flood Warden action- As for flood alert plus:

- advise volunteers that collection of sandbags is likely to occur;
- ensure all Assistant Flood wardens are aware of warning;
- alert volunteers via group contacts that they may be needed and to stay by a phone/mobile contact;
- ensure those needing help are attended to.

Residents are advised to:

- collect and deploy sandbags and undertake all other precautions to protect their property (follow personal flood plan);
- move vehicles and livestock to safety;
- turn off electricity/ gas and water;
- roll up carpets and rugs;
- unless there is time to remove them, hang curtains over rods;
- move sentimental items to safety;
- put important documents in polythene bags and move to safety.

Do not touch electrical switches if you are standing in water.

Do not walk, cycle or drive through flood water.

3. Severe Flood Warning – Danger to life

As for Flood Warning but with the following advice from the Environment Agency:

Flood water is dangerous. Remember that you should not put yourself or others at risk. The emergency services are responsible for ensuring public safety and co-ordinating the incident response. Call 999 if in immediate danger.

The Rivers Arms Pub in the village is prepared to act as an emergency rest centre in the event that people need to evacuate their homes due to flooding and have nowhere else to stay for the night.

If a flood warning is no longer in force it means that no further flooding is currently expected in the area.

Following any flooding:

Residents are advised to:

- take care, flood water may still be around for several days;
- be careful when returning home or walking/ driving through residual flood water;
- if flooded contact their insurance company as soon as possible;
- be aware of the risk of contamination from flood water and take appropriate precautions;
- continue to monitor the situation as the flooding event may be around for a longer period of time. Please follow travel advice for the village;
- check Septic tanks as they can be affected by water ingress and may require emptying as a matter of urgency. This is the responsibility of each individual home owner;
- be careful when driving through flood water. It can be dangerous to vehicles, and road surfaces can be washed away/holes obscured under water. It can also create a bow wave that can lap into properties and cause further damage.

It is the resident's responsibility to dispose of any used sandbags they must not be returned to the store as once saturated, they pose a future health risk.

In case of flooding the following companies will also be contacted by the flood warden if required:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england>

<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk>

Groundwater Flooding

The Environment Agency's has a new community-based groundwater flood warning service in Dorset and Wiltshire. The new service for residents will be added to the Environment Agency's National Flood Warning Service online, which previously only alerted members of the public to more general groundwater flood alerts.

Residents are advised to sign up for this service. Anyone who is already signed up to the Flood Warning Service, will still need to 'opt in' for groundwater flood warnings and can sign up using the same flood warning link <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. The groundwater warnings are designed to give residents time to prepare and take appropriate action.

To find out more information about groundwater flooding, visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-from-groundwater>

For background, a 2019 report from the Dorset Echo on the roll out of flood practical advice and guidance on how to reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater visit:

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/17441736.the-environment-agency-is-rolling-out-its-flood-warning-service-to-dorset/>

The following slides show the overall flood warning **area** for the village, this includes risk from groundwater flooding.

It is recommended that Individual property owners ascertain any estimated risk for their property







Further information on the Cheselbourne stream and its ecology:

<https://www.riverflies.org>

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/where-we-work/uk-rivers-and-chalk-streams>

<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2019/07/19/protecting-chalk-streams>

<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/catchment-partnerships/poole-harbour-catchment-partnership/poole-harbour-catchment-information>

http://www.groundwateruk.org/downloads/low_river_flows_and_wetlands.pdf

There is currently a project in place to improve the Cheselbourne stream and Devil's Brook. This is to both mitigate flooding risk and improve water ecology. A working group to help maintain and assist with this project will be necessary. Updates will be included as the project develops.

Glossary of terms

Affluent - Streams receiving the run-off from surrounding land and flowing as a tributary into a larger river or lake.

Aquifer – an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock, which forms a saturated zone beneath the water table and is a huge storehouse of water, which may be accessed via a well.

Chalk Streams - rivers that rise from springs in landscapes with a chalk bedrock. As chalk is permeable, water percolates easily through the ground to the water table and the streams contain less organic matter and tend to run quite clear.

Culvert – a structure that allows water to flow under a road, railway, trail or similar obstruction from one side to another including a buried watercourse. They can be made from a pipe, reinforced concrete or other material.

Ecology – the relationship between living organisms and their environment.

Groundwater – water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is stored and moves slowly through formations of soil, sand and rocks through aquifers.

Storm drains – separate specialized surface drainage systems designed to handle excess water from heavy rainfall and are frequently in flood-prone areas. They can operate independently to the mains drainage system.