



Road / Environmental Report – March 2026

MAIN A32 SOUTH to Farringdon crossroads - Ditches at side of the A32 still require clearing and it is also evident that drainage pipes under side roads are still partially blocked. Responsibility deemed to be with landowners. There are still left-over damaged road signs on the roadside but no water in ditches.

KITCOMBE LANE - No reports of any problems. Monitoring of off-road vehicles continues with no recent reports. Ownership is still being looked at.

FARRINGDON CROSSROADS (north to the 30mph limit) - Problems with HGVs trying to access Farringdon Industrial Centre, then having to reverse onto the A32 from Brightstone Lane has been highlighted. Parish Council are investigating and are looking at signage. Similar issue with HGVs turning into Shirnall Hill and up into Hall Lane – this is being looked at by the Parish Council (with assistance from our M.P. Damian Hinds office)

NORTH TO CHAWTON ROUNDABOUT - The ditches (now full of slowly flowing water) along the A32 are still a problem with litter, rubbish and vegetation in them. It appears that the onus is still on the landowners to clear. There is some uncertainty on ownership of the RHS side ditches as Chawton estate indicate that their deeds do not show this section of land being owned by them.

BRIGHTSTONE LANE - The runoffs and drains have been cleared but side ditches have not. Edges of lane have fallen/cut tree branches so be aware. Repaired BT cables following fallen tree still lie on the verge within ½m of the road edge will no doubt be damaged when verge is cut again. No action as yet by Openreach following reporting. The ownership of the various parcels of land associated with Lords Wood is still being investigated. Apparently planning has visited one site and are allowing certain aspects of the site including siting of caravans and large metal containers etc. Planning are however requesting a formal application for a new site entrance which was been added; no application seen yet. Apparently, EHDC planning are reviewing the site conditions of approval.

SHIRNALL HILL - Drains at Chase view being monitored.

CHURCH ROAD and PARSONAGE CLOSE - Work continues at Massey's Folly. Scaffolding has been removed.

THE STREET - The ownership of Stank Lane was investigated but came to no conclusion at this time. Locally landowners are responsible for side hedges whilst HCC maintains bridleway to 2.5m. Collapsed road edges reported to HCC but they have been classed as not requiring any action.

CROWS LANE - Drainage system that exits into Gaston Lane require drains and gulleys to be cleared otherwise excessive runoff from fields above Hall Lane will cause local flooding.

GASTON LANE - Caker stream bridge is still **CLOSED** until bridge repaired. HCC are now looking at starting works in April 2026 with construction taking 6-8 weeks!! Still awaiting outcome of Solar Farm application but traffic will be affected and may result in a one way with Hall Lane also one way if passed.

HALL LANE potholes! - Extensive flooding occurred with soak away blocked with silt. Although water is now minimal attempts have been made to clear the mud and debris from soak away. HCC are aware and have put in a jetting order – no date. Now flooding has receded it can be seen that a ¼ of the road has disintegrated along the RHS on the straight after the 90-degree bend - HCC have been informed. Also beware LHS as we

cannot tell the state of the road under the remaining water. Some reports of damaged tyres. Be extremely careful if driving in the dark along here. Solar farm application for fields adjacent to this lane and Gaston Lane now are being discussed. The SDNP sign at the junction of Hall Lane and the B3006 has been reported as a sightline obstruction but no action so far. The left-hand junction sign on the B3006 still not replaced after 2 years but has been highlighted yet again to HCC. Now damaged again!

LOWER PLAYING FIELD, PLAY GROUND beware!! - Raising water table now evident in lower play area. The Parish Council have restricted area use and installed orange safety netting. Please DO NOT enter the water! A new small gate has been added to allow easy access to the recent installed gym equipment – access to this is still open – not affected by flooding. Broken wooden bollards adjacent to the road are being checked and the Parish Council are looking at replacing them.

COMMUNITY VILLAGE GARDEN - Garden work by volunteers continues. Adjacent parking, use of passage and access to Right Of Way is being monitored. Illegal parking on the Right of Way should be reported to the local authorities directly.

FOOTPATHS AND HEDGES - All paths and bridleways are being monitored; most are passable. HCC Rights of Way did list 6 paths within the parish and were on the cutting list for previous years, although not a lot of work was carried out. We are looking at the possibility of the Ramblers Association helping out with the maintenance of path as HCC appear to no longer do this. All hedges and overhanging trees to be cut back from the road, lane edges and those bordering any footpaths and bridleways. Rights of Way may only cut footpaths to 1.50m and bridleways to 2.50m width. We believe that the Byways Open To all Traffic (B.O.A.T)'s are still under HCC control). Problems can be reported to myself or directly to the Rights Of Way website.

FLOODING - Water table is above normal but steady: Local groundwater table level recorded as 116.36m AOD on March 6th (93.72 to 113.45 is normal range). If roads etc floods HCC will look at options available. *Last year the total amount of rainfall measured in my garden was 895mm and is the lowest for 5 years. Lowest temperature was -5 deg and highest was 35 deg. (my measurements - DW)*

Compiled Cllr David Williams

PLEASE REPORT ANY ROAD/ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO ME

david.williams@farringdonpc.org