

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY HAMPSHIRE HIGHWAYS, BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING THE HAZARD POSED BY THE HIGHWAYS WATER RUN OFF IN CLIDDESSEN

1. Issues

- a. The road network through the village of Cliddesden is affected by flooding on a regular basis following moderate to heavy rainfalls. This is likely to increase the risk of a road traffic incident as road users (vehicles, horse riders, cyclists and pedestrians) negotiate these conditions.
- b. The pond in the centre of the village is filling with silt washed in from the highways and is nearing the point at which it will have to be cleared.

2. Recommendations

- a. A plan of works be agreed by all stakeholders ensuring that all drains, silt traps and soak-aways be properly cleared/reinstated reducing the amount of standing water on the highway.
- b. A plan of works be agreed by all stakeholders to clear the pond of silt ensuring it can continue to take run off from the highway network, again reducing the amount of standing water on the highway.

3. Timing. Urgent.

4. Background

- a. The village of Cliddesden sits to the south of Basingstoke in the north of Hampshire. The centre of the village is the junction connecting the B3046 Farleigh Road, Woods Lane and Church Lane, adjacent to the junction is the village pond (see Fig 1). The B3046 is the primary road linking Axford and the Candovers to Basingstoke, joining the A339 Alton road just before it passes under the M3. Drivers also use the B3046 to circumnavigate Basingstoke to the south, reducing travelling times by avoiding the urban road network through the town itself. Routes to the town centre can be accessed via the A339, to Brighton Hill via Woods Lane, to Kempshott/Hatch Warren via Garlic Lane and to J7 of the M3 via Farleigh Lane and Dummer (see Fig 2). National Cycle Network Route 23 (Reading to Alton via Basingstoke) uses Woods Lane, the B3046 and then Church Lane to navigate cyclists through Cliddesden along the route (see Fig 2).

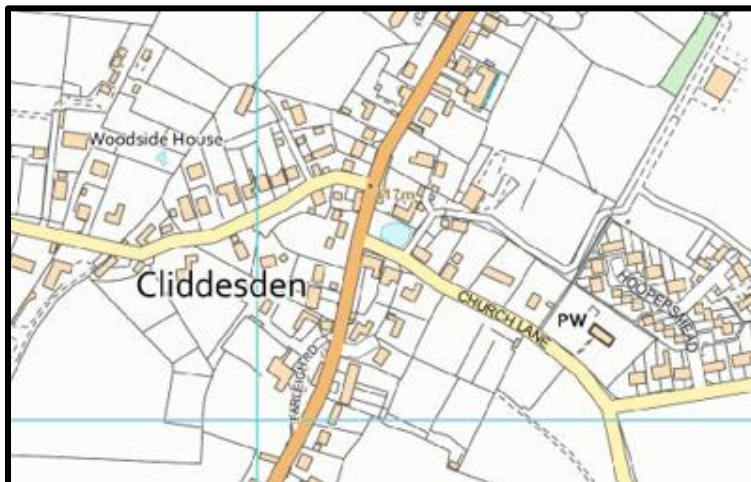


Fig 1 showing the centre of Cliddesden with the B3046 running north to south, Woods Lane heading west from the B3046 and Church Lane to the east. The pond is marked in blue sitting between Church Lane and the B3046.

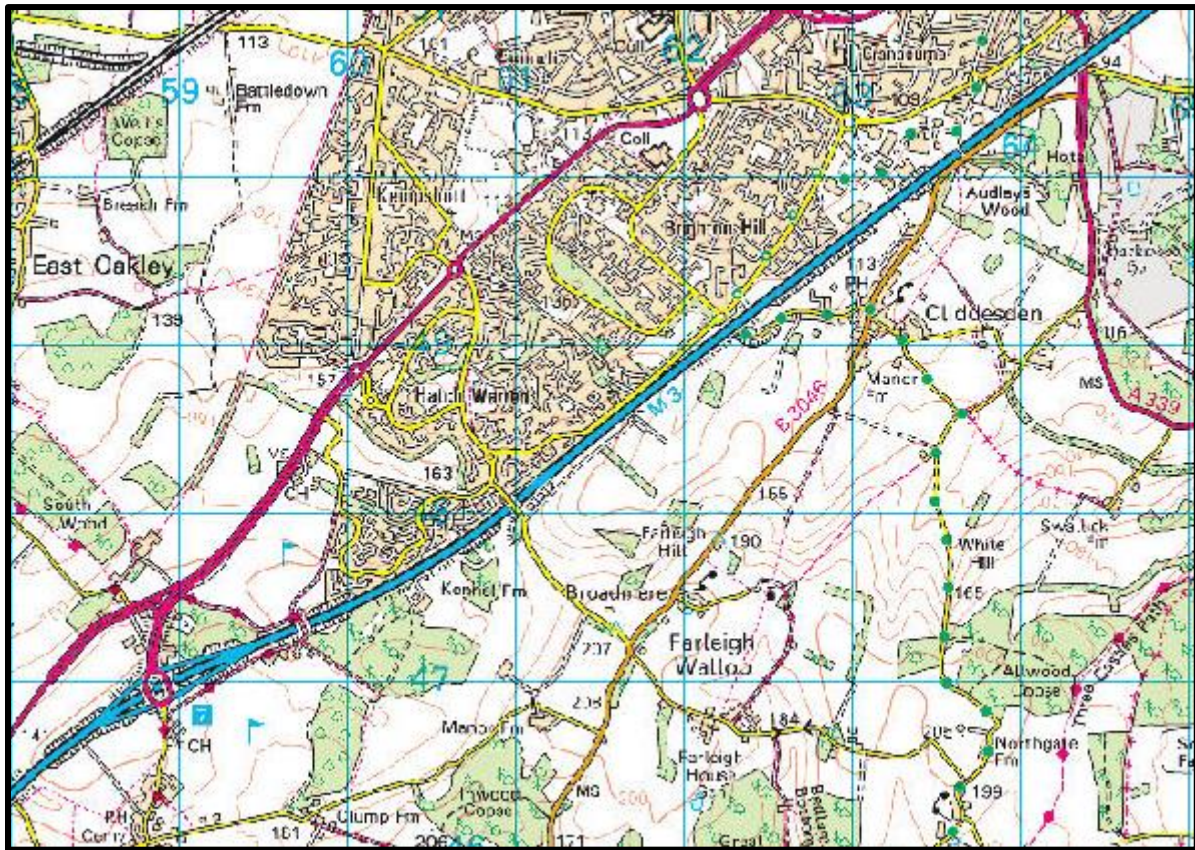


Fig 2 showing the routes available to drivers wishing to avoid the urban road network through Basingstoke. National Cycle Network Route 23 is marked with green dots.

- b. In addition to the vehicle usage (including cyclists) the road network in the centre of the village is also used by pedestrians and equine users. There are no pavements on any of the roads around the pond area meaning all users must share the highway. As well as pedestrian traffic generated by villagers Cliddesden is a popular area for walkers from Basingstoke and further afield. Cliddesden is also home to a large number of stables, paddocks and liveries which means we enjoy a large number of equine users transiting through the village. All major routes for all road users converge at the staggered junction adjacent to the pond.
- c. It is worth highlighting that despite extensive efforts by the Clerk of Cliddesden Parish Council no legal owner of the pond has been found. The Parish Council undertakes general maintenance of the area surrounding the pond ensuring it is kept in a safe condition but the PC is not the legal owner.
- d. Whilst the pond is undoubtedly an aesthetically pleasing centre piece to the village it has a practical purpose. It is there to accept rain water from the road network and to hold it before releasing it into a small stream that leads from the pond to the north. This alternates between an open stream and culverts as it flows north east behind the houses situated on the east of the B3046 before eventually depositing the water into Southlea Meadow where it eventually soaks away.
- e. The pond takes run off rain water from the B3046, Woods Lane and Church Lane and the issues affecting each of these are detailed below;

(1). B3046. Rainwater flows onto the B3046 from the fields and residential properties that bound it on each side. To the south west of Cliddesden where the B3046 climbs towards Farleigh Wallop Cliddesden PC has in recent years paid to have the silt traps and soak aways reinstated in order to reduce the volume of run off coming into the village (despite this section of road being outside of the PC boundary). Within the village settlement boundary several drains are positioned on each side of the highway with the purpose of taking rain water off the carriageway and delivering it to the pond. These drains are completely blocked with silt meaning that the rainwater now creates a stream at the highways edge as it flows to the junction with Church Lane (see Fig 3,4 & 5). The final drain prior to the junction is only partially blocked and it is only at this point that the rain water enters the drain for the final 15 metres to the pond. At points along the B3046 the stream created by the run off exceeds a metre in width meaning that pedestrians or cyclists using the road must move into the centre of the carriageway (see Fig 6). Whilst the B3046 is a 30 mph limit within the village Speed Indicator Device data shows that a considerable proportion of drivers do not adhere to the limit, the road also features a number of curves reducing visibility. The stream created by the rain water runoff runs for over 300 metres continuously (see Fig 7). This combination of factors leads to a higher probability of an RTI occurring during periods of rainfall.



Fig 3 showing a blocked drain on the B3046.



Fig 4 showing a blocked drain on the B3046.



Fig 5 showing a blocked drain on the B3046.



Fig 6 showing the width of the stream created on the B3046.



Fig 7 showing the continuous nature of the stream created on the B3046.

(2). Woods Lane. Rainwater flows onto Woods Lane from the residential properties on either side of the lane, the volume of water reaching the highway has undoubtedly increased as more properties have been added to Woods Lane and as driveways have been enlarged. There are no drains, soak aways or silt traps on Woods Lane meaning that all run off that reaches the highway is channelled down the road effectively turning it into a stream (see Fig 8). This stream eventually flows across the B3046 (see Fig 9) before finally reaching a drain on the east side of Farleigh Road where most of it flows underground for

the final 3 metres into the pond (see Fig 10). A large puddle forms over this drain during periods of rainfall as the drain is restricted due to silt accumulating in it (see Fig 11).



Fig 8 The view up Woods Lane from the B3046 showing the stream running down the left of the image.



Fig 9 Showing the stream crossing the B3046 from Woods Lane.



Fig 10 Showing the flow from Woods Lane eventually entering a drain approx. 3 metres from the pond.



Fig 11 Showing the silted up drain into which the run off from Woods Lane enters.

(3). Church Lane. Water runs onto Church Lane from the paddocks and fields, the church yard and the residential properties that border it. There are a number of silt traps and soak aways on Church Lane and in recent years the PC has paid to have these cleared. There are two drains close to the pond on Church Lane but these are partially blocked and cause water to back up during heavier spells of rain fall. This all results in a large area of standing water forming during any period of rainfall (see Fig 12). This standing water regularly extends to cover over half the carriageway and reaches the B3046. This means that pedestrians are forced into the carriageway at the point at which traffic joining Church Lane from the B3046, drivers doing so can see the standing water and naturally pull across onto the opposite side of the carriageway (see Fig 13). Once the standing water has eventually drained into the pond a large area of silt is left on the carriageway (see Fig 14), this again forces pedestrians with limited mobility or those with push chairs or wheel chairs into moving out into the carriageway dangerously close to the junction with the B3046.



Fig 12 The view from the B3046 looking up Church Lane.



Fig 13 The view looking down Church Lane to the B3046.



Fig 13 Showing the silt deposited on Church Lane.

f. All images were taken on Friday 27 September 2019 following a moderate shower lasting approximately one hour and delivering 1.6mm of rainfall (source World Weather Online).

Produced by;

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