

## 1.0 Introduction and Scope

This plan is intended to assist residents of the Lower Winterborne Parish Council (Kingston, Muston, Anderson and Zelston) in the event of a flood. The plan is intended to help with mitigating the effects of flooding by protection of homes and managing activities during a flood.

The creation of this plan is supported by the village people in so far as flooding has been identified as a major concern by residents in the “Parish Plan” produced earlier.

Information for anyone living in the Parish, who may be affected by flooding plus responsibilities of volunteers, is described within this document.

There is a list of organisations within this plan that may also assist during a flood. The fact that these organisations are listed does not necessarily mean those organisations will commit to assisting during a flood. Their participation will be dependent on resources available at the time.

## 1.1 Key Contacts for Villagers representing the Parish Council are:-

Flood Warden Winterborne Kingston	Graham Hyde	01929 471 630
Muston, Anderson	Mob	0790 1234 769
Deputy Flood Warden W Kingston	Derek Andrews	01929 471 510
	Mob	0788 9374 975
Deputy Flood Warden Wares Close	VACANT	
Flood Warden Zelston	Rita Burden	01929 459417
Deputy Flood Warden	Ann Bradford	01929459529

Other relevant contact numbers are at paragraph 11.

## 1.2 Flooding Event Types

The villages in the Lower Winterborne parish will be subject to groundwater flooding, Fluvial (river) and possibly flash or road flooding. We are too far away from the Stour to be directly affected from it in flood.

## 1.3 Causes of Flooding

The Lower Winterborne Valley areas are affected by high groundwater levels. The whole area is influenced by the chalk hills (Bulbarrow Hill and surrounding areas) which hold so much water, and then with continued rainfall becomes saturated. This water permeates through underground cracks etc. and finds its way down stream causing the water table to rise. Very often the river Winterborne will start to flow in Zelston which is a lower level than Winterborne Kingston. As the water table rises the river will start to flow from higher levels e.g. Anderson then Kingston and eventually the river will flow all the way from Stickland through the lower Winterborne Valley to Wimborne and into the Stour. As rainfall continues, the water table will continue to rise until eventually Kingston will be lower than the table and springs start to appear. These springs come out of the fields

along West Street and find their way into the road. In 2013 and 14, the volume of water coming down the river was such that incapacity at culverts results in backing up. The consequential overflows from this backing up add to the flow down West St where they flow down towards the centre of the village by the Village Hall. This puts a strain on the drain system leading into the Winterborne, which eventually can't cope with the levels of water.

At Muston, historically the river has overflowed to the extent that it runs down Muston Lane towards Anderson causing fairly serious road flooding which consequentially threatens some properties. Recently active river maintenance seems to prevent this.

In Zelston the water level in the River Winterborne rises beyond the ability of the river to take the ground water away thus threatening surrounding properties

## 2.0 Flood Warnings

2.1 Detail of Flood warnings for groundwater in the lower Winterborne, will be provided by the Environment Agency Office. (EA)

2.2 There are four warning codes provided by the agency. These levels of warning are as follows:

Flood Alert	Flooding is possible. Be Prepared Monitor Weather forecast
Flood Warning	Flooding is expected . If appropriate block doorways and make local arrangements
Severe Flood Warning	Severe Flooding is expected. Imminent danger to life and property. Evacuation of property may be required
Warning Removed	There are no Flood Alerts or Flood Warnings currently in force in our area

### 2.3 Flood Alert

When this warning has been given by the EA, we can expect to see flooding in the fields high up West ST and gardens at North Farm Cottage WK – but not yet any flooding of roads or danger to properties. The river level will be fairly high.

### 2.4 Flood Warning. / Severe Flood Warning

This will be given by the EA when the EA measurement devices at Delcombe Wood ( Milton Abbas) indicate they have reached such a high level that a surge discharge from the hills is inevitably going to cause flooding. At this time this level has not been ascertained and requires feedback from the Flood Wardens to indicate flooding is imminent at the appropriate bore hole reading. Severe Flood would be expected when an even higher level is detected at the bore hole. It is anticipated therefore that the Flood Wardens (Graham Hyde in WK and Rita Burden in Zelston are likely at the moment to have a better idea of imminent flooding than the EA.

2.5 However, the warnings issued above by the EA are generated by sensors located in the ground that detect the rising water table at certain places throughout Dorset. The relevant sensor for the Lower Winterborne Valley has been installed in Winterborne Kingston (Raymond's bridge) with a level detector in the R Winterborne. This provides a level measurement available through "River Gauge" see Internet Access The Environment Agency record levels that can give early warning of impending flood via the internet <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency> The environment Agency also have Flood Warnings direct Scheme which will notify of impending flood via phone or email though as yet not for groundwater affected areas like Kingston and Anderson.

In the early part of 2015, the Environment Agency will be introducing an automated Ground Water alert service for our area. This will be based on river level measurements in WK. There will be some assistance initially from the wardens to the EA to ensure the alerts are meaningful and can be relied upon i.e. not false alarms. The service will be either a phone message or a text and will be on an "opt in" basis.

2.6 There are more relevant local indicators available in our area:-

#### 2.6.1. Winterborne Kingston

Events will generally progress as follows:

When the Dew Pond (normal winter occurrence) in the field between Bagwood Lane and Orchard Lane, becomes a "lake" and overflows into the lane.

Water starts to pond in North Farm House grounds

Strong flow on the River Winterborne

Ponding higher up the field above and in the field adjacent to Kingston Barnyard

When springs start to appear out of the road and fields in West Street

The water flowing down West Street forms a steady flow down to the village Hall

The Road at the bottom of West Street in WK starts to flood as drains can't cope.

(Occurred recently in January and February 2014)

When the water in the Winterborne reaches top step in the garden of Saxon's in Sackville Street.

These indicators mean the threat in Kingston is high and all measure possible to protect property should be taken.

#### 2.6.2 In Zelston,

When water reaches a height that it cannot flow under the bridge opposite "Everleigh", then it flows onto the road. At this level, it then also flows back up a drain outside "Wayside".

### 3.0 Flood Risk Areas

When the above events occur flooding is going to happen very soon. Flooding has occurred to properties in December 2000 (8 in WK) and 2 in Zelston in 2000. More recently 2014, 1 in Kingston another affected. The effected properties are located at the bottom end of West Street, Sackville Street and Wares Close.

The effects will also include road flooding and access problems in West Street, Sackville Street and North Street/Bere Rd. Winterborne Kingston and Muston Lane. In Zelston, the whole of “The Street” is flooded from “Willow Farm” to “Bridge Cottage” and up towards the “Botany Bay” public house as far as “Robins Thatch”.

### 3.1 Recurring Maintenance Issues

In WK the drains down West Street tend to block up with debris over the year and need to be cleaned out annually as a minimum. In addition there is a drain on the corner of Church Lane/Bere Rd which blocks frequently. This should flow towards the village hall but when blocked threatens properties in Church Lane.

Also the drains on the corner of Noah Henville/ London Rd which has blocked in the past – may have been solved as have been piped indirectly to the Winterborne for a few years now.

The drain outlets from London Rd flow into the Winterborne to the west of the road bridge by the Greyhound Pub. When the river is very high this can result in river water flowing up the pipes and halting road drainage. When this happens flooding of the road is likely to happen.



Village hall in 2000 W. Kingston

### 4.0 Level of Response

The level of response that could be expected from the authorities to a flooding incident will depend on what is flooded or is at risk of being flooded. There are five priority categories:-

PRIORITY	FLOODING AFFECTING	RESPONSE
1	People	Action to protect life
2	Houses	Action to protect life and property
3	Roads	Action to protect life and property
4	Commercial Property	Possible action to protect property
5	Gardens/Agricultural land	No action

## 5.0 Prior to Flooding

5.1 The Flood Warden will on an annual basis walk the relevant sections of the Winterborne and liaise with the EA, Riparian owners, Parish Council, District council, DCC Highways as necessary to make sure the water course is prepared to handle winter flows through the villages. 2014 the wettest winter for 250 years, showed that effective maintenance of the Winterborne at Muston, increased Winterborne flow which almost eliminated flooding at Muston/Anderson and speeded up river flow.

5.2 Make sure there is a store of sandbags held in Winterborne Kingston to be available if required by owners in the Parish.

Sandbags (empty) are held by the Flood Wardens Graham Hyde and Rita Burden and a limited amount of sand is held close to Kingston. Large stocks of filled sandbags cannot be held as they deteriorate, so additional quantities will be procured in the event of an emergency.

5.3 Winterborne Kingston – a stock of sandbags is held by the Flood Warden - Graham Hyde and can be obtained by contacting him or Derek Andrews to protect properties – not gardens.

5.4 Zelston – Empty sandbags are also held by the flood Warden - Rita Burden at “Everleigh” together with sand when necessary.

5.5 Encourage the PC to hold budget for the procurement of sand/bags in the event of an emergency although NDDC have usually supported the Flood Warden with sandbags. The Parish Council annually around September send a letter to Riparian Owners in the Parish, advising them of their responsibilities to keep banks of the river clear as detailed

in the Environment Agency Document “ Living on the Edge”. This can be viewed on line via the EA website or follow the link from the Lower Winterborne Parish Council Website at <http://www.lowerwinterborneparishcouncil.co.uk/newsletters.html> . Alternatively Graham Hyde can email a copy.

5.6 Encourage householders at risk to make provisions at home to prepare for flooding including holding a personal stock of sand held at home perhaps in a dustbin. Blocking airbricks etc. This can be done easily with board and silicone.

5.7 In WK, petrol driven pump is held by the residents of Wares Close that will be used to pump excess water through the back of Wares Close/gardens into the River Winterborne if required. This is to protect the residents of Wares Close/part of Sackville Street in the event of Flooding. This came about as a result of flooding in 2000. If Wares Close is threatened, the deputy warden Roy Fox has control of this pump. The pump would be used to lower the water level in underground storage tanks in Wares/Sackville St, which in turn lowers flood level in Wares Close a little, reducing the threat to houses. The pump will be checked annually to make sure it is functional.

5.8 An additional Petrol driven pump is held by the Flood Wardens in W. Kingston and is available for the Wardens to deploy as felt necessary within the Lower Winterborne Parish area wherever it may be beneficial. This pump will be checked and maintained annually.

5.9 The Flood Warden will attend annually Environment Agency workshops and liaise with the EA as necessary by the Flood Risk team in Blandford

## **6.0 Preparing For a Flood**

The Flood Warden will notify the owners of those properties considered at risk. Ordering of extra sand for the sandbags which are held as above. The wardens can be contacted for sandbags and they will decide if and where they are needed and make arrangements to deploy with local volunteers.

Putting emails/notices around the village notice boards warning of Flood and disruption.

Alert Roy Fox of possible use of pump in Wares Close WK

Owners of properties at risk should take appropriate steps

Distribution of sandbags on a need basis – gardens will not be protected

Coordinate with County Council re Signs and possible closure of roads.

Talking to relevant authorities and preparing them:-

Environment agency

North Dorset District council

Lower Winterborne Parish Council

Highways Dept Police

Wilts and Dorset Bus Company  
Southern Electric

## **Internet Access**

Invaluable information is available via the internet on the Dorset For You Website. You can get in Dorset:-

Road, Live travel and Gritting information

Flooding information (live feed from Environment Agency) Warnings, Alerts etc.

Landslide and Rock Fall info.

Report a road problem, Report Flooding

Public Transport and School Bus updates ad much more...click on:-

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/travel-dorset/severe-weather>

For the Environment Agency click on:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

River Level Gauge <http://www.gaugemap.co.uk/> Zoom in and click on the Winterborne Kingston flow gauge. This gives a local indication from the river level of a flooding risk. Local indicators may be more accurate as water will be held back further up river. It is usual for the flood risk in Kingston to look threatening when things also look serious in Zelston.

## **7.0 During a Flood**

During a Flood there will be regular checks made for signs of imminent flooding

The Flood Warden will keep a log of calls made and actions agreed during the danger period and flooding.

Volunteers to fill sandbags if required

At the first sign of flooding in the village, the relevant flood warden (Kingston or Zelston) is to be contacted. Using local knowledge or card through the door, he/she will alert all those at risk and raise volunteers for furniture shifting/raising if required.

Police, County Council Highways Department and Bus Company will be contacted regarding warning signs for the road and information on buses.

The flood wardens will be available by telephone or by personal contact

A pump will be activated in Wares close as required ( Winterborne Kingston) An additional pump is held in Kingston and is available to the flood wardens should it be necessary.

The flood warden will provide information to the District Council Emergency organisations and EA as required.

The water levels at key points in the village will be monitored during the whole event by the Flood warden in order to advise the EA post flooding.

The Flood Warden will supply details of properties flooded ( to the EA and DCC Flood Risk Assessment Team) and the extent of flooding and levels

Should you be unlucky to be flooded, turn off electricity and possibly gas. Beware of contamination from the flood water which may contain harmful bacteria/sewerage from septic tanks etc. Inform your insurance company straight away as you may have to move out.

The deployment of sandbags and the use of any pumps will be at the discretion of the Flood Wardens. Gardens will not be protected.

## **8.0 Post Flood**

- The flood warden will keep Parish Councillors informed as required
- Investigate Flooding and record information including levels
- Analyse the event and identify problems which will be shared.

## **9.0 Duties of Relevant Authorities**

### 9.1 Environment Agency – issues groundwater flood information

Will take action if required to clear the river Winterborne (this does not remove Riparian owner's responsibilities) if it is threatening homes. Riparian owners may be billed.

Receives and records details of flood incidents

Monitors the situation and advises other organisations

Deal with emergency repairs and blockages on River Winterborne as a last resort

Responds to pollution incidents

Advise on waste disposal issues

### 9.2 Dorset County Council

Coordinate Emergency arrangements

Maintains safe conditions on roads or closes them

Puts Flood Warning signs on Roads and organise diversions

Clears obstructions on highway drains (Dorset Highways 01305 221020)

### 9.3 Dorset District Council

Usually enable the Flood Warden with dry sandbags/sand – but are not willing to distribute to the public direct.

Clear blocked watercourses (land drainage act powers – not River Winterborne which is Main River)

May possibly arrange for pumps in an emergency  
Assist with environmental health issues (pollution)  
Emergency planning support group liaison

#### 9.4 Flood Warden on behalf of Parish Council

Flood Warning dissemination  
Distribute sandbags if they are required from his stock  
Provide help and advice where needed  
Monitor the River Winterborne and advise PC, Riparian owners and the EA where required  
Identify vulnerable people  
Notify Homewatch to monitor vacant properties  
Liaise with emergency services if thought necessary  
May arrange for collection of used sandbags if not contaminated. If they are, they should be taken to household recycling centre (rubble)

#### 9.5 Southern Electricity, Gas and BT

Attend emergencies relating to their service at properties putting life at risk as a result of flooding. Contact your supplier if your home is flooded.

#### 9.6 Emergency Services

Rescue, respond to emergency incidents as required, and assist the populace where a need is identified and the use of fire service personnel and equipment

#### 9.7 At Risk Property owners

Prevent water entering to property if possible (not always with rising groundwater)  
Keep an emergency pack in case they are flooded  
Switch off gas and electricity if you are flooded  
If going away make sure a third party has a key  
Move valuable possessions above floor level or raise with plastic bottles with tops cut off around legs or upstairs. If flooding levels were very high, consider blocking toilet, sinks washing machine outlets  
Notify Flood Warden of foul drainage problems or the council  
Move cars from flood risk area

#### 9.8 Riparian Owners

Have a duty as part of their property ownership to maintain the river Winterborne /ditches to accept flow from upstream neighbours and pass it on downstream without restriction. Generally, a Riparian owner is responsible for the bank they own and outwards to the centre of the Winterborne. This is important. The EA can enforce this maintenance if required.

#### 9.9 All Residents

If possible avoid driving through flood water. If it is essential drive very slowly to avoid flood wash damage to adjacent properties.

Please be aware that washing machine discharges have to go somewhere if you're septic/ treatment plant is flooded

## 10.0 Follow up Action

The Flood warden will:

Investigate flooding and record levels and any other relevant information

Supply details on the extent of flooding to the EA

Analyse the flooding event for any lessons to be learned and endeavour to find solutions.

## 11.0 Contact Telephone Numbers

Organisation	Tel Numbers – office hours	Tel Number – out of hours	Web/ email
Environment Agency	01258 483442	For Wardens Only	
Floodline (EA)	0345 988 1188 choose option 1, input quickdial code 166050 or 166078	0845 988 1188	
Dorset County Council -	01305 221000 switch board		
-Donna George – Senior Emergency Planning Officer	01305 221000		<a href="mailto:d.d.george@dorsetcc.gov.uk">d.d.george@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a>
-David Beavis – Emergency Planning Officer DCC 24/7 Emergency Duty Officer	01305 221000	07623 544346	<a href="mailto:d.beavis@dorsetcc.gov.uk">d.beavis@dorsetcc.gov.uk</a>
-Dorset County Council Highways	01305 221020 or SW BD		
North Dorset Council	01258 454111		
Flood Tech Officers, Mike Coker, Barry Holliwel	01258 484274		
Wessex Water general and Emergency enquiries	0845 600 4 600		

## Appendix A Family Flood Plan

The Environment Agency's Floodline is there to help keep you informed of any flood situations in your area, but do you know what to do if your property is at risk?

Make yourself a Flood Plan so that you are ready to protect you and your family from flooding should the worst happen...

### FAMILY FLOOD PLAN

1. Make a list of useful telephone numbers, and keep them in a safe place close to hand.
2. Find out who, in the immediate area holds sandbag stocks and where. Keep these details somewhere safe and close to hand.
3. Make a Flood Kit – it is good idea to have a kit containing a few essentials made up and stored where everyone in the house knows where to find it.

Your kit should include:

Key Personal Documents (insurance)	Wellington Boots
Torch	Waterproof Clothing
Battery or wind up Radio	First Aid Kit
Mobile Phone	Blankets
Rubber Gloves	Any important medication

If you have children, consider what they will need

4. Get into the habit of storing valuable papers and belongings upstairs or in a high place downstairs.
5. You should know exactly where to turn off the gas and electricity and even be able to find them in the dark if your property floods.
6. Make sure the car is parked in a safe place if it may be flooded
7. Make a list of things you need to take with you in case of evacuation.  
Having a plan for your family pets. Decide NOW where you will go and how you will get there. If you decide to stay in the house but decamp upstairs, make a list of things you will need. You may need to be able to lift up furniture clear of the flood water.

Make your plan now not when you are flooded!