

HOLT PARISH COUNCIL FLOOD PLAN

COMMUNITY FLOOD RISK

The parish of Holt is at risk of flooding from river and surface water. This plan has been drawn up to enable the community to be more resilient should flooding occur and will be initiated by the parish council.

The parish will endeavour to help when able but cannot guarantee their ability to respond in a flood event. Householders and businesses are encouraged to make their own plans, evaluate their specific flood risk, take steps to protect their property and sign up for flood warnings.

RIVER FLOOD RISK

- Frequent flooding occurs on the B3106 between the Tollgate Inn and the junction with New Terrace
- Flooding occurs on the B3107 between Chalkeymead and the Farmers Roundabout, as you enter Melksham, joining the A350
- Flooding occurs on the B3105, the causeway, aka New Terrace
- Upstream monitoring stations are
 - Great Somerford (Chippenham): monitoring the River Avon, north of Chippenham
 - Avon Mill & Avon Weir (Chippenham): located on the upper River Avon near Chippenham
 - Corsham (Corsham): Level gauge situated on the River Avon

Surface Water Flood Risk

- Areas at risk include the brook that runs alongside Brook Lane and The Midlands, opposite the Village Hall, plus the area of the playing field near the brook, and close to the Glove Factory
- Climate change mapping predicts more properties will be at risk in the future, from this type of surface water flooding

Groundwater flooding property

- There is medium to low risk of flooding from groundwater in the areas mentioned above, alongside the brook

Flooding, when it occurs, is often a combination of more than one type of flooding. Residents at risk should sign up to the Environment Agency and Met office warnings and be aware of early indications of flooding within the vicinity; via social media, trigger points, and local knowledge.

Roads at risk of flooding access/egress

The following roads could potentially close at the same time, limiting access to Holt

- B3106 Staverton
 - Wiltshire Council closes the B3105 road based on information received from the Environment Agency, and Emergency Services. High water conditions are monitored by the Local Highways Team (daytime) and Duty Engineers (out of hours)

- On a rising river level and when water covers one quarter of the carriageway, the gates should be closed
- This can be reported to Wiltshire Council for immediate action via the MyWilts App
- B3107 Bradford on Avon
 - The B3107 can be closed at Bradford on Avon at the same time, causing access/egress issues for Holt residents
 - The B3107 can be closed near the Famers roundabout at Melksham, causing access/egress issue for Holt residents
- The B3105 causeway/New Terrace
 - The B3105 from the River Avon bridge at factory site CPW to Forewoods Common can be closed at the same time. Once breached a significant current can develop across it, creating a serious hazard and a danger to vehicles.

This plan is intended to provide advice in the event of flooding. It suggests ways you can protect your property and business, things you can put in place to mitigate the effects of flooding, check lists of actions, and links to organisations that will support and help you. If there are people in our community that may need extra help, please let the parish council know. You can email the clerk clerk@holtparishcouncil.gov.uk or post a note in our letter box near the Village Hall entrance. If you would like to volunteer and be involved with a community flooding response, we would like to hear from you.



PROTECT

Useful links: -

- Are you at risk? Sign up to **Floodline** for warnings **Tel 0345 988118 Text 0345 6026340**
www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings
www.gov.uk/check-flooding
www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice
- **Wiltshire Council** <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk> **Tel 0300 4560105 to report imminent flooding**
- **Wiltshire Council** www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilt **For blocked gullies, highways flooding & highway defects**
- **Environment Agency** <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/> **Tel 0800 80 70 60**
- **Holt Wiltshire on facebook** <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1384793181763693/?ref=share>
- **Holt Parish Council on facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/holtparishwiltshire?>
- **Police, Ambulance, Fire & Rescue Tel 999**
- **Wiltshire & Bath Air Ambulance** designated landing site is Holt Recreation Field
- **Wessex Water Tel 0800 316 9800**
- **Power Companies Electric & Gas Tel 150**
- **Vulnerable persons register** <https://www.ssen.co.uk/power-cuts-emergencies/priority-services/>
Tel 0800 2943259

BEFORE A FLOOD

ACTIONS TO TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY:

- Communications – mobile phones, social media and local news
- Evacuation points and emergency routes
- List residents who may need help; include locations and contact info
- List volunteers; include contact info. Comply with GDPR regulations when gathering personal information.
www.gov.uk/data-protection

TRIGGERS: these rely on local knowledge.

- Water level points at Staverton bridge on the B3105
- Water levels at Challemead and the Farmers Roundabout approach at Melksham on the B3107
- Condition of local flood defences
- Direction a flood could come from
- Latest info www.gov.uk/check-flooding

HOW TO HELP:

- With communication and administration
- Helping move furniture and possessions
- Checking on vulnerable neighbours

CHECKLIST

- Sign up for flood warnings
- Local flood triggers – be aware of where they are
- Locations at risk
- Actions
- Equipment – a small flood cabinet is located between the Village Hall and Holt Superstore, containing signage and gel sacks. This is accessible at all times.
- Emergency contacts
- List of vulnerable people – held by the Parish Council
- List of flood wardens & community volunteers; including their skills. Their responsibilities are: -
 - Installing emergency flood protection products
 - Moving people to safe locations
 - Emergency storage
 - Medical support
 - Communicating
 - www.gov.uk/help-during-flood

Do Not Put Yourself at Risk

The emergency services are responsible for keeping people safe. Our community can help them, by not putting ourselves at risk.



VOLUNTEERS & PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Emergency contacts for Parish Council
07787 175832 & 07375 934468
clerk@holtparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Follow the guidance of the Emergency Services
- Report to the Environment Agency (EA) and Wiltshire Council (WC) – stay connected
- Be aware of the possibility of submerged items
- Avoid being trapped and plan exit routes
- Flood water is extremely contaminated; cover broken skin, wash hands in clean water regularly, use antibacterial handwash
- Wash contaminated equipment after use, safely dispose of items that cannot be cleaned (e.g. used contaminated sandbags cannot go to the tip and require specialist disposal; gel bags/sacks can be washed and re-used)
- Do not attempt to unblock a drain during a flood
- Do not touch electrical equipment; turn off main power supplies
- Turn off main gas valves and avoid using electrical appliances
- Hypothermia can be a risk; dress properly in layers of clothing, drink plenty of fluids and eat regularly
- During and after a flood, be careful of slippery, wet and debris strewn areas; especially riverbanks

- Be aware of accompanying winds in storm conditions
- Do not approach animals unless you are sure it is safe
- Do not carry out the role of a flood volunteer if you have been drinking alcohol; it can impair your judgement
- Traffic – contact the duty highways engineer or the police; it is their responsibility to divert and direct traffic
- Do not attempt to drive through flooded roads
- Manage sensitive information responsibly
- Keep your community informed
- Keep gullies clear – report blocked gullies via www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts



PERSONAL FLOOD PLAN - checklist

PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY

PROTECTION MEASURES + ADAPTATION MEASURES

KEEP IT OUT: suggested solutions to reduce flooding

- Flood gate and barriers
- Portable pumps
- Vent protection
- Self-closing airbricks
- Sump pumps
- Non return valves
- Re-Pointing
- Flood doors
- Waterproof spray
- Silicon sealing
- Tanking

www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding

ADAPTATION

- Resilient floors, walls, room design
- Raising electrics
- Boiler relocation
- Storage of valuable/important items

www.befloodready.uk

INSURANCE

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) has comprehensive information; from obtaining insurance to flood risk properties, to procedures and solutions, should flooding occur.

<https://www.abi.org.uk>

FLOODRe A joint Government and insurance industry initiative to help find affordable insurance for qualifying properties that are at flood risk.

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

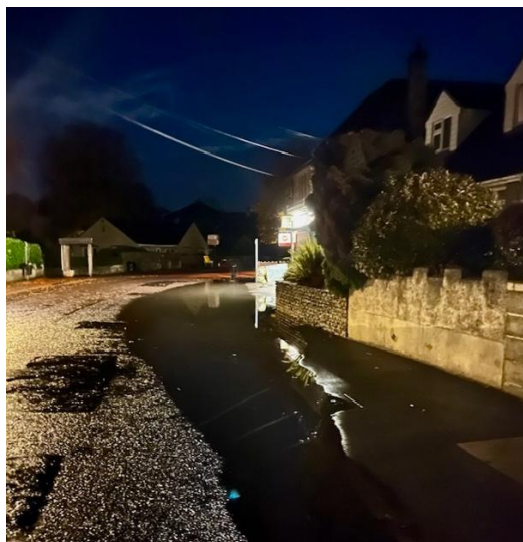
BUSINESS FLOOD PLAN - checklist

- Sign up to Environment Agency flood alerts/warnings
- Research PFR (property flood resilience) you could use
- Check your business insurance includes cover to buildings/contents/stock/business interruption/lost revenue
- Back up paper and electronic records off site
- Make a flood kit
- Keep a contact list to include all staff; specify if any staff are vulnerable
- Keep a contact list of important contacts e.g. business owner, foreman, manager, insurance company, environmental agencies (Environment Agency Floodline is 0345 988 1188)
- Utilities – know where your cut off /isolation points are
- Local flood recovery centre, and emergency assistance centre
- Local Authority
- Supply chain
- Consider which items might need to be moved; identify and provide locations
- Protect hazardous materials with barriers and secure materials
- Move company vehicles
- Make an evacuation plan
- Security procedures to activate
- Be aware of regulations and legislation, including health and safety, liability, environmental management, and financial management.
- Communicate the above with your staff, allocating roles and responsibilities in the event of an emergency

Flood Kit Checklist

- Copies of the Flood Plan
- Bottled water and non-perishable food

- Blankets, warm waterproof clothing
 - First Aid Kit
 - Spare mobile phone chargers
 - Up to date staff list, include out of hours numbers
 - Insurance documents, in plastic packets
 - Torches and batteries
 - Two-way radios
 - Camera to record images of damage
 - Images of business pre flood
 - Keys
 - Battery operated radio
- Sign up for Floodline alerts floodline@notifications.service.gov.uk 0345 988 118



AFTER A FLOOD

- Check that it is safe to return to your property
- Do not turn on water, gas or electricity until the utilities company have made appropriate checks
- If renting, contact your landlord. [Citizens Advice](#) and [Shelter](#) can provide advice.
- Contact your insurance company. Take photos. Check with your insurance company what you can throw away. Some items may be contaminated and hazardous; contact environmental health at your local council for advice. [Wiltshire Council](#)
- Do not use tap water if there is a change in colour, taste, smell. Do not eat food that has been in contact with flood water or has been in a fridge or freezer that has been turned off.
- An incident of flooding can be traumatic, seek help from your friends, family and doctor.
- Support is available from your local council. [Wiltshire Council](#)
- Mary Long-Dhonau OBE, is a property flood resilience champion, supporting victims during recovery. See her guides and resources at [flood mary](#)

FACTS

- 30cm of fast flowing water can move a family car/an eggcup full of water could wreck an engine/60cm of standing water can float a vehicle.
- Around 6.3 million properties are at risk of flooding in England; caused by rivers, the sea, and surface water.
- [Environment Agency assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk in England 2024](#) for more info about our changing climate and their data collection.

STAY SAFE