

Kirkley Stream Flood Report – March 2016

1. Background

This newsletter is to update you on progress since the distribution of the January newsletter and to remind you that there will be another public meeting on **Friday 1st April 2016, 4.00-6.00pm at Waveney District Council, Riverside**. We hope to see you there.

Please refer to previous newsletters for background details to this matter. The S19 Flood Investigation and update reports can be viewed and downloaded from: www.greensuffolk.org//SFRMP/FIR

This update covers the whole of the Kirkley Stream (or Brook as it is sometimes known) from Carlton Colville to its outfall into Lake Lothing at Kirkley Ham.

2. Clearance works February-March 2016

The clearance work on the stream from Bloodmoor Roundabout to Kirkley Ham as described in the last update has been completed. This work was led by the Environment Agency (Project Manager: Paul Beck) on behalf of the Partnership.

The objective was to clear dense willow and other shrubs from the stream bed to about 2 metres up the bank. The willows have been coppiced to near the trunk base and cut material was shredded or will be secured on adjacent land. Overhanging branches of established trees have also been removed and in April/May we intend to spray the bankside vegetation, including bulrushes, to prevent further spreading. The extent of clearance required varied along the stream, so you will see less activity in some areas.

The aim of all this work is to ensure the water can move freely during high flows by reducing the amount of natural debris in the channel that can result in snagging and blockages which was the cause of the flooding in July 2015.



Typical willow growth before clearance



Stream after clearance

3. Taking forward other recommendations in the reports

The reports make a number of other recommendations in relation to the Kirkley Stream. Progress against these recommendations is detailed below.

1. Upstream of Bloodmoor Roundabout at Carlton Colville, in the section defined as Main River, the Environment Agency has undertaken clearance work to improve the capacity of the channel and reduce the likelihood of blockages occurring. Further discussions between all parties are ongoing, which will include options to further reduce flood risk that will be considered as part of the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project

Waveney District Council, who is responsible for the maintenance of the channel adjacent to Meadow Park, will be working with the Environment Agency to carry out scrub and vegetation clearance work in this area during autumn 2016. This will allow the Environment Agency machine access to Kirkley Stream to carry out vegetation clearance and dredging works which will improve the channel capacity and reduce the likelihood of blockages occurring.

2. The key agencies have agreed the principles for ongoing maintenance procedures and responsibilities. Having undertaken the necessary clearance of the stream these will be refined and implemented to ensure risks of blockages and resulting flooding are reduced.
3. Anglian Water's trash screen, at the junction of Tom Crisp Way and Southwell Road, which catches debris as it flows down the stream, now has a telemetry monitoring system in place. This system will give a warning when blockages are developing allowing more rapid removal of debris, further reducing the risk of flooding caused by blockages within the stream.
4. A full topographical survey of the stream has been undertaken and this information has been fed into the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project. This information will be used to determine if there are opportunities to further reduce flood risk in the area, within the resources available, as part to this longer term project. We will continue to engage in dialogue with interested parties as options become more clearly defined, with a period of public consultation commencing at the end of May.

Helpful contacts:

Anglian Water: 03457 145 145 (24-hour, 7 days a week)

Environment Agency Flood Line: 0345 988 188 (24-hour)

Suffolk County Council: 0345 606 6067 (office hours)
floods@suffolk.org.uk or online reporting on www.suffolk.gov.uk/flooding

Waveney District Council: 01502 527133 (emergencies); 01502 562111 (office hours)

Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit: 01502 523321 (office hours);
contact via Waveney District Council in an emergency