

Kirkley Stream Flood Report – January 2016

1. Background

This newsletter is to update you on progress since the distribution of the December newsletter. Please refer to this and the October newsletter for background details. The S19 Flood investigation and wider 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 starting week commencing 1st February 2016

A topographical survey of Kirkley Stream from Bloodmoor Roundabout to Kirkley Ham was completed and has indicated the extent of clearance work that is needed. This work will commence next week, led by the Environment Agency (Project Manager: Paul Beck) on behalf of the Partnership. The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board and Waveney Norse are also supplying labour, to ensure we get the work done quickly before birds start nesting.

You will notice a small site compound on land just off Bloodmoor Roundabout and there are likely to be about six people involved in the work plus an environmental expert who will ensure the work complies with ecological regulations and does not disturb water vole burrows. Most of the clearance work will be done by hand or remote control flail.

The objective is to clear dense willow and other shrubs from the stream bed to about 2 metres up the bank. The willows will be coppiced to near the trunk base and cut material taken off site. (We are currently looking for a use for the willow material, but if none can be found it will be chipped and removed). The willow roots will be left to ensure the stability of the banks. Overhanging branches of established trees will also be removed and in April we intend to spray the bulrushes to prevent them spreading. The extent of clearance needed varies along the stream, so you will see less activity in some areas.



Typical willow growth that will be coppiced

The aim of all this work is to ensure the water can flow freely without the risk of debris snagging on vegetation and blocking the channel.

There are areas where garden waste and other debris will also need to be removed (see picture).

We ask that local residents ensure this is not replaced with similar material in the future!



Silt levels are low to moderate, and generally accumulate near to structures and along the toe of the channel where there are willows, as would be expected. . We do not believe this is contributing significantly to flood risk and thus we will not be undertaking any silt removal. Neither will we be undertaking any clearance of the flood storage area until further studies have confirmed whether this would further reduce flood risk.

We expect the initial work to take two to three weeks, it will be jointly funded jointly by Suffolk County Council and Anglian Water.

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, in the section defined as main river, the Environment Agency has undertaken clearance work to increase flows in the stream. This has partially solved the problem and further discussions between all parties are ongoing. Any possible options will be considered as part of the longer term Lowestoft Flood Management Project that is examining potential improvements across the town. Waveney District Council, who is responsible for the maintenance of the channel adjacent to Meadow Park, confirms that clearance work in this area is likely to take place this autumn at the end of the bird breeding season.
2. The key agencies are currently in the process of agreeing ongoing maintenance procedures and responsibilities. These plans will be shared with you shortly. Having undertaken the necessary clearance of the stream, detailed above, these procedures will be put in place.
3. Potential improvements to Anglian Water's trash screen, at the junction of Tom Crisp Way and Southwell Road, which catches debris as it flows down the stream, are currently being reviewed and a telemetry monitoring system put in place next week. This system will give a warning when blockages are occurring allowing more rapid removal of debris, reducing the chances of flooding caused by blockages within the stream.
4. Another matter that was a cause of concern was the impact on new development on flood risk and whether there are any means to limit any new discharges into the Kirkley Stream. All relevant parties met to discuss this in January. In the short term this is a matter for Waveney District

Council, as planning authority, to ensure flood risk is properly considered, for each proposed development. Decisions will be supported with advice from partners (including the County Council, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency who are statutory consultees within the planning process) and working closely with developers. As Waveney updates the Lowestoft Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Local Plan, it may be possible to provide greater guidance to prospective developers in this area to strengthen the need to reduce run off from development sites.

4. Next steps

We will continue to keep you informed about our activities by sending out updates such as this one and have arranged another public meeting on **Friday 1st April 2016, 4.00-6.00pm at Waveney District Council, Riverside**. We hope to see you there. Meanwhile, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information.

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 6171 (emergencies);

0345 606 6067 (office hours)

floods@suffolk.org.uk or online reporting on www.suffolk.gov.uk

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