

# Flooding from groundwater

Kimpton, North Hertfordshire

Number 2 06 March 2014

This is an update to our recent notification that groundwater levels in the River Mimram catchment are high and are continuing to rise. Levels are higher than normally expected for this time of year. **Groundwater flooding** happens when levels of water in the ground rise above the surface. We are monitoring the levels closely and will issue a Groundwater Flood Alert if the situation changes.

## Current situation

Groundwater levels in the Mimram Catchment are still rising in response to the intensive rainfall we have experienced this winter. The levels at the Lilley Bottom borehole, which we use to monitor groundwater flooding risk around Kimpton, are currently at around 99 metres above ordnance datum. Levels are now climbing at a much slower rate than they were in the preceding weeks. The levels and trend recorded in the borehole at the Holt Farm, near Kimpton, is broadly similar to this time last year.

## Forecast risk of flooding

Currently, there is a moderate risk of groundwater flooding occurring around Kimpton. The weather outlook into next week is mixed, with sunny spells combined with periods of showers. The temperature is forecast to rise compared to preceding weeks. The warmer conditions will help the groundwater to stabilise; however during this time of the year, further prolonged rainfall is likely to drive levels higher. This may result in water flowing in usually dry Chalk valleys. Fields near the river channels may become water logged, and there may be localised surface flooding.

Groundwater flooding events tend to last longer than river flooding. This is because groundwater levels respond to rainfall over a number of months and their response lags behind rainfall. Groundwater flooding also takes longer to drain away.

## What we're doing

We will continue to monitor the groundwater levels and their response to further rainfall, and assess the risk of flooding. Water levels in the Lilley Bottom borehole are monitored by our systems every hour. In addition to this we have begun a weekly monitoring programme of other local boreholes in the areas described above.

If the situation changes and we expect flooding to occur then we will issue a Flood Alert for the relevant areas.

Your Lead Local Flood Authority is responsible for responding to groundwater flooding. The Environment Agency monitors groundwater levels and issues groundwater Flood Alerts where there is known groundwater flooding history. In areas that experience high groundwater levels we work with the local authorities and other professional partners to safeguard people and properties. If you have concerns about groundwater flooding, please contact your Lead Local Flood Authority, Buckinghamshire County Council.

## Actions and advice

To find out if you are at risk from groundwater flooding and to register to receive Flood Alerts for groundwater, call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 (24 hour service) or go online at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Think and prepare now for what you'll do if flooding occurs where you live, don't wait until flooding happens. Prepare a flood plan to help you decide what practical actions to take before and during a flood, which will help reduce the damage flooding could cause. For guidance on how to do this and what to include visit <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/38329.aspx>

## Next update

We will update the briefing note if the situation changes significantly. Otherwise the next update will be Friday 28 March 2014.

## Further information

The latest Flood Alert information can be found on the Environment Agency website at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/31618.aspx>

A monthly water situation report can be found on the Environment Agency website at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/34015.aspx>

## Contacts

Floodline:	0845 988 1188
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Environment Agency National Customer Contact Centre:	03708 506 506
	<a href="mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk">enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>
Environment Agency Incident Reporting:	0800 80 70 60