

## Solent and South Downs Groundwater Update Winter 2009

Briefing Note No 3

25 March 2009

### Groundwater Prospects

Groundwater levels are still high in some villages across Hampshire and West Sussex, but are starting to level off across most of the area, and in some places have started to fall.

In **Appleshaw** and **Hatherden**, groundwater is still at a level where we may expect some flooding. However the levels are now starting to level off and we would expect them to start falling soon.

The groundwater level in the borehole at **Vernham Dean** is still rising and is now at a level where we may expect some cellar flooding at **Upton**. We would expect the groundwater level to stop rising soon and to start levelling off.

At **Oakley** the groundwater level is high but is now falling and is below a level that we would expect cellar flooding at Deane.

The groundwater level in the **Kings Somborne** borehole has started to fall but is still at a level where there may be some cellar flooding expected.

Levels in **Hursley** are high but are starting to fall, and are below the level we would expect to see cellar flooding.

The borehole in **Chalton**, which gives an indication of levels in **Finchdean**, **Dean Lane End** and **Rowlands Castle**, has now dropped to a level below the Environment Agency's trigger levels. The borehole in Finchdean has also started to fall, and although the level is still high, it is at a level that cellar and external flooding is not expected.

In the boreholes at **Compton** (Ems Catchment) and **Chilgrove** (Sussex Lavant Catchment) the levels have started to fall and are now around average for the time of year.

In the following boreholes and associated villages, groundwater levels are below trigger level, are falling and are not of concern: **Lopcombe Corner** (Pitton, Broughton, Nether Wallop, West Tytherley) **Preston Candover** (and the surrounding villages), **Harestock** (Littleton, Headbourne Worthy, Bishops Sutton), **West Meon** (and Cheriton and West Meon Valleys), **Broadhalfpenny Down** (Hambleton, Denmead, Meonstoke, Soberton),

## **Prospects for the coming weeks:**

We are now into the time of year when we would expect groundwater levels to be reaching their peak and falling. If around average rainfall is received over the next few weeks then we would expect levels to start/continue their seasonal decline. If we have significantly above average rainfall in the next few weeks then levels may pick up again.

## **What we are doing**

We will continue to monitor groundwater levels at the telemetry sites across the area. This means that data can be seen in the office at all times.

We will also continue to monitor conditions at local wells on a weekly basis. If conditions look set to worsen we will issue an updated groundwater briefing note. We will also issue a note to advise when levels have receded below threshold levels.

We show groundwater level data for several boreholes on our internet site. This data can be found using the following link:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/99556.aspx>

## **What you can do**

Property owners may wish to review the need to improve surface water drainage and/or install and assess sump pumping arrangements. It is advisable for parish Flood Action Groups to carry out watercourse inspections to ensure there are no blockages.

Please reply to [katy.gell@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:katy.gell@environment-agency.gov.uk) if you would like to change your contact email address or if you know of anyone else who would like to receive the newsletters by email. If you have been sent this information and it is no longer relevant to you please can you reply to this email to be removed from the list.

If you would like more information please access the website referred to above for current data on borehole levels, or phone us on the details below.

## **How to contact us**

### **Technical Contact**

If you would like any further information on groundwater levels please contact Sarah Ritchie on 01962 764984, email [sarah.ritchie@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.ritchie@environment-agency.gov.uk).

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### **Email Recipients List**

Any queries relating to the email group receiving groundwater briefing notes should be sent to:

Katy Gell, Flood Incident Management. Katy can be contacted direct dial on 01962 764819, email [katy.gell@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:katy.gell@environment-agency.gov.uk).

### **Nigel Sell**

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