

Hampshire Groundwater Update Winter 2009

Briefing Note No 2

25 February 2009

Groundwater Prospects

Groundwater levels have risen over the last month and are high across the area.

In the **Finchdean** area levels have risen very quickly in the last week. The borehole at Carpenters in Finchdean is now at 39.28 meters above ordnance data (maod). There may be some cellar and external flooding in the village at these high groundwater levels. Levels are still rising at the well in Finchdean. At the borehole in **Chalton** levels have peaked and are slowly receding, however any further heavy rainfall will cause this level to rise again.

In the **Hursley** area levels are high and are continuing to rise. The current groundwater level being recorded at the borehole in Hursley is 40.46m above ordnance datum which is below the level we would expect cellar flooding.

In **Appleshaw** and **Hatherden** levels have risen and are now at a level where we may expect some cellar and external flooding. Levels are continuing to rise slowly and therefore there may be a risk of internal flooding in the next few weeks if this rise continues.

In **Kings Somborne** the groundwater is at a level where there may be some cellar flooding. The groundwater has stopped rising and is level at present. However further rainfall will cause the groundwater level to start rising again.

The levels at **Vernham Dean** are high and are continuing to rise but are not yet at a level where we would expect cellar flooding in Upton.

At the borehole in **Broadhalfpenny Down** (which gives an indication of levels in **Hambledon, Denmead, Meonstoke and Soberton**), levels rose very quickly in the last month but have since peaked and are now slowly falling. Groundwater levels respond fairly rapidly to rainfall in this area so any heavy rainfall will cause the levels to rise again.

Prospects for the coming weeks

The weather for the next few weeks is unsettled.

As catchments are saturated, further rainfall will cause an increase in groundwater levels. However if we receive little rainfall then the groundwater levels should start

to level off. In most years, levels peak in late March and April but this will be dependant on the rainfall we receive in the coming weeks.

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 on a weekly basis. 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 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.

Email Recipients List

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

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