

FLOODING



THATCHAM
FLOODFORUM

A Resident's Guide

Published by:

THATCHAM FLOOD FORUM
c/o Council Offices
Brownsfield Road
THATCHAM
Berkshire
RG18 3HF

Telephone: 01635 860634 or 863592
Email: enquiries@thatchamfloodforum.org.uk
Website: www.thatchamfloodforum.org.uk

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Surface Water Management Plan for Thatcham

On 20 July 2007 Thatcham suffered widespread surface water flooding, with initial estimates of approximately 1100 houses flooded, resulting in economic losses to both residents of the area and businesses. The flooding was caused by a combination of run off from the rural catchment to the north of the town and urban overland flows.

In November 2008 West Berkshire was one of six local authorities awarded funding from Defra to undertake a pilot Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) to investigate further the mechanism of flooding in Thatcham and identify options to reduce the risk of surface water flooding.

West Berkshire Council took the lead role in the pilot study and a partnership of key stakeholders was formed to oversee the production of the SWMP. The partnership included Thatcham Town Council, the Environment Agency, Thames Water Utilities and an engineering consultancy. Thatcham Flood Forum and Cold Ash Community Partnership were also involved in the project as representatives of their local communities. An action plan was produced, three key elements of which were:

Item 4.1.2: *“An assessment was made of a number of technical measures. These included measures that require technical input in the form of flood mitigation measures. Measures that were identified included: **Construction of detention basins¹** in the rural catchment reducing the volume of surface water runoff draining into the urban area;”*

Item 4.1.7: *“One of the issues highlighted in the 2007 floods was the **lack of public awareness on how to react to flooding**”*

Item 4.1.8: *“Whilst a number of the measures aim to reduce flooding to Thatcham, it will not be possible to completely eradicate the risk of flooding in every location. In such areas, it may be possible to reduce the damage from flooding by **incorporating resistance / resilience measures**. Whilst these measures will not reduce the probability of flooding, their aim is to reduce the damage caused by the flooding when it does occur.”*

The full SWMP can be viewed at:

<http://www.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=23479&p=0>

The first of four proposed detention basins was constructed in 2014, to the north of Thatcham, on the eastern side of Cold Ash Hill.



¹ A detention basin is an open, excavated area for protecting against flooding by storing water for a limited period of a time.

The remaining detention basins are proposed for north of Tull Way, Dunstan Park (Floral Way) and Francis Baily.

These basins will temporarily hold back exceptional volumes from surface run-off, which the drainage system cannot immediately cope with. The basins will then release the stored water into the existing system over a longer period, thereby allowing time for better management of exceptional volumes of water. For the vast majority of time the basins will be “green” and fit within the landscape. Examples of existing attenuation basins can be seen to the west of Pipers Way (on the road to Thatcham Station) or the bund which has been constructed to protect Bucklebury village.

Whilst these basins will significantly reduce the risk of flooding to many homes, **it is important to understand that there is no single solution that will resolve the risk of flooding in Thatcham**, but a combination of engineering options, retro-fitting resistance measures to individual properties, planning policy, emergency planning and increased public awareness will reduce the current and future risk of flooding within Thatcham.

If your home or business is flooded it can be costly, not just in terms of money and time but also inconvenience and heartache. **While it’s impossible to completely flood-proof a property**, there are lots of things you can do to reduce the damage flooding can cause.

Whether you rent or own your home or business premises, there are many things you can do to help yourself. Some are simple and temporary while others involve permanent structural work. The key is to act now so you’re prepared if there’s a flood in your area.

You can also make improvements so that even if flood water enters your property it causes less damage, so drying-out and cleaning up is faster and easier. This means you could move back home or open for business far more quickly.

The most important thing is to prepare now.

Over 5.5 million properties in England and Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea or surface water. That’s one in six.

Don’t wait until flooding looks likely as you may not have time to put measures in place.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE A FLOOD:

- ✓ **At any time throughout the year** - report blocked or obstructed drainage systems and open watercourses to West Berkshire Council on 01635 42400, E: customerservices@westberks.gov.uk or via www.westberks.gov.uk
- ✓ Register to receive Flood Alerts from the Environment Agency; phone the Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk
- ✓ Ensure you have adequate insurance
- ✓ Prepare your property by buying and fitting flood resilience measures (i.e. forming a barrier against flood water, helping to keep it out of your home) and flood resistance measures (i.e. replacing carpets with waterproof tiling or raising electrical sockets in order to reduce the impact of any floodwater that does enter your property) (see pages 6 – 8)
- ✓ Prepare an Emergency Pack (see page15)
- ✓ Prepare and keep a list of all your important contacts (see page 14) or save them on your mobile phone
- ✓ Know how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies
- ✓ Think about what items you can move now and what you would want to move to safety during a flood such as pets, cars, furniture, and electrical equipment

PREPARING YOUR PROPERTY:

Try to keep flood water out:

- ✓ **Doors:** buy purpose-built flood boards that can be installed when flooding is imminent. You can also raise door thresholds.
- ✓ **Walls and floors:** raise damp-proof brick courses. Sealing floors ('tanking') can prevent water rising through the ground.
- ✓ **Air brick covers:** buy specially designed covers that are easy to place over ventilation bricks. Remember to remove them after the risk of flooding has passed.
- ✓ **Air brick replacement:** is designed to allow air to pass through but not water and will replace the standard air brick.
- ✓ **Drains and pipes:** fit "non-return valves" to drains and water inlet and outlet pipes.
- ✓ **Pipes and cables:** ensure all entry points of TV/satellite and telephone cables, pipes, drains are all sealed with appropriate foams or compounds to prevent the ingress of water.
- ✓ **Walls:** ensure external walls are in good order. Repair any broken or crumbling bricks and re-point the mortar up to the anticipated flood level. If standing water is expected then treat the walls with a good quality waterproofing agent.
- ✓ **Door Barriers:** many variations of temporary door barriers for front/back doors, garages and patio doors are available. Flood proof doors are also available.
- ✓ **Sewage Flooding:** fitting "non-return" or "backflow" valves will help prevent sewage finding it's way into your property through downstairs toilets and showers/baths.

...but accept that flood water might get in:

Here are some things you can do to reduce the damage floodwater might cause inside:

- ✓ **Shelving:** put irreplaceable or valuable items on high-mounted shelves.
- ✓ **Home entertainment:** fix your audio-visual equipment, for example your TV and hi-fi, to the wall about 1.5 metres above floor level.
- ✓ **Skirting:** fit water-resistant skirting boards, or varnish them.
- ✓ **Pump:** fit a pump in a basement or under-floor void to extract flood water.
- ✓ **Walls:** dry-line. Use horizontal plasterboard, or lime-based plaster instead of gypsum. Get a special draining system for cavity walls.
- ✓ **Flooring:** lay tiles with rugs rather than fitted carpets, which often need to be replaced after a flood.
- ✓ **Doors and windows:** install synthetic or waxed windows and doors, or varnish.

- ✓ **Kitchen and bathroom:** use water-resistant materials such as stainless steel, plastic or solid wood rather than chipboard. Where possible raise fridges and appliances on plinths.
- ✓ **Electricals:** raise electrical sockets, fuse boxes, controls and wiring to at least 1.5 metres above floor level. If rewiring, bring cables down the wall to the raised socket so that cabling is not affected.

Buying these products

Making your property resilient to floodwater will limit the distress and damage caused by flooding, which means less costly repairs and less time out of your home.

There are a variety of products that you can purchase. A comprehensive list of these can be found in 'The Blue Pages' directory on the National Flood Forum's website <http://www.bluepages.org.uk/>

The Blue Pages is an independent directory of products, builders, suppliers and insurers. It's designed to provide information on all aspects of flood protection and resilience products.

Quality check

When you buy a flood product check it's been properly tested and is up to the job – it should display the BSI Kitemark or equivalent accreditation for the national quality standard PAS 1188.

The British Standards Institution (BSI) maintains a list of all manufacturers of flood protection products that have been tested and achieved Kitemark accreditation. See www.kitemark.com

The Flood Protection Association represents manufacturers and designers of flood defence products. See www.floodprotectionassoc.co.uk

Know your Flood Warning Codes and what they mean:



FLOOD ALERT
FLOODING IS POSSIBLE. BE PREPARED.

What it means

Flood Alert -- A Flood Alert means that flooding is possible and that you need to be prepared.

What to do:

- Monitor local news and weather forecasts.
- Be aware of water levels near you.
- Be prepared to act on your flood plan.
- Check on the safety of pets and livestock
- Charge your mobile phone.



FLOOD WARNING
FLOODING IS EXPECTED. IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED.

What it means

Flood Warning - means that flooding is expected and that you should take immediate action. You should take action when a flood warning is issued and not wait for a severe flood warning.

What to do:

- Move cars, pets, food, valuables and important documents to safety.
- Get flood protection equipment in place.
- Be prepared to evacuate your home. Protect yourself, your family and help others.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so act on your flood plan.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING
SEVERE FLOODING. DANGER TO LIFE.

What it means

Severe Flood Warning - means that there is severe flooding and danger to life. These are issued when flooding is posing significant risk to life or disruption to communities.

What to do:

- Collect things you need for evacuation.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies if safe to do so.
- Stay in a high place with a means of escape. Avoid electricity sources.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood water.
- In danger call 999 immediately.
- Listen to emergency services. Act on your flood plan.

SANDBAGS

Do sandbags work?

Traditionally, sandbags have been used to block doorways, drains and other openings into properties as well as to weigh-down manhole covers, garden furniture and to block sink, toilet and bath drains to prevent water backing up.

- They can keep water out for short periods which can be improved by using them in conjunction with plastic sheeting.
- They can filter out some muddy sediments found in flood waters.
- They are cheap and easy to obtain.

However, according to the Environment Agency, sandbags are relatively ineffective when compared to purpose-designed flood protection products. Some of the pitfalls are:

- It takes two people to fill them (unless you have a sandbag filling machine).
- They take time to fill (approximately one hour to fill 12 sandbags).
- They can be difficult to handle.
- Laying them can be very time-consuming.
- Sacking material is biodegradable and will perish if left in place for a long time.
- It is difficult to place sandbags in water and particularly in running water.
- Sandbags do seep water even when well-stacked and trodden into place.

Don't assume that the authorities will provide you with sandbags in a flood emergency. **It is the responsibility of property owners to take appropriate action to protect their property from flooding.**



WHAT TO DO DURING A FLOOD:

Gather essentials

- Fill jugs and saucepans with water.
- Grab your flood kit if you have prepared one.
- Collect blankets, torch, first aid kit, medication and food.

Move items

- Move important documents, personal items, valuables, lightweight belongings upstairs or to high shelves.
- Raise large items of furniture, or put them in large bags if you have them.
- Move people, outdoor belongings, cars and pets to higher ground.

Prepare your property

- Switch off water, gas and electricity at mains when water is about to enter your home. Do not touch sources of electricity when standing in water.
- Fit flood protection products if you have them, eg flood boards, airbrick covers, sandbags, and toilet bungs on downstairs toilets.
- Put plugs in sinks and baths. Weigh them down with a pillowcase or plastic bag filled with soil.
- If you do not have non-return valves fitted, plug water inlet pipes with towels or cloths.
- Disconnect equipment that uses water, like washing machines and dishwashers.

Stay out of floodwater

- Avoid walking or driving through flood water.
- Be aware that flooding can cause manhole covers to come off.
- Keep children and vulnerable people out of floodwater.
- Don't walk on sea defences or riverbanks.
- Take care or avoid crossing bridges when water levels are high.
- Take care crossing culverts as they are dangerous when flooded.
- Look out for other hazards such as fallen power lines and trees.
- Wash your hands thoroughly if you touch floodwater as it may be contaminated.

Take action in an emergency

- Call 999 if you are in danger, or people have been injured.
- Check in on vulnerable neighbours.
- Move people and pets upstairs or to a higher place with means of escape.
- Remain calm.

Evacuate when told

- Follow the advice of emergency services if they tell you to evacuate - they will take you to a centre run by the local council and give you food and bedding.
- Bring clothing, medication, and baby care items.
- Bring pets in a secure carrier and pet food.
- Tell someone if you intend to stay with friends or relatives instead of the evacuation centre.

WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD:

- Contact your insurance company as soon as possible
- Take photographs and videos of your damaged property as a record for your insurance company
- If you don't have insurance, contact your local authority for information on grants and charities that may help you
- Flood water can contain sewage, chemicals and animal waste. Always wear waterproof outerwear, including gloves, wellington boots and a face mask
- Have your electrics, central heating and water checked by qualified engineers before switching them back on

Clearing up after a flood:

- Take care. There may be dangers in the water such as sharp objects and raised manhole covers. Flood water may have caused structural damage to buildings.
- Flood water can contain sewage, chemicals and animal waste. Always wear waterproof outerwear, including gloves, wellington boots and a face mask.
- If your electricity supply is not already switched off at the mains, get a qualified person to do this. **DO NOT** touch sources of electricity when standing in flood water.
- If you have gas or oil central heating and it has been checked by an engineer, turn it on. Keep the thermostat between 20-22 degrees centigrade for steady drying.
- You can get water out of your property using a pump and generator. Position the generator outside in the open air as generators produce carbon monoxide fumes which can kill.
- Only pump out water when flood levels outside your property start to be lower than inside. This reduces the risk of structural damage.
- Shovel mud away evenly from both sides of a wall. This stops pressure building up on one side.
- You can clean and disinfect your property using ordinary household products.
- A garden hose is useful for washing down. Do not use high-pressure hoses as they blast contaminated matter into the air.
- If you are drying your property naturally, keep doors and windows open as much as possible. If using dehumidifiers, close external doors and windows.
- Local councils usually provide skips and extra rubbish collections for items that your insurance company has agreed you can throw away.
- If you don't have insurance, contact your local authority for information on grants or charities that may help you.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Organisation	Address	Telephone	Email	Website
Emergency Services: Ambulance, Fire, Police		999		
Citizens Advice Bureau	2nd Floor Broadway House 4-8 The Broadway Northbrook Street Newbury RG14 1BA	01635 516605 or 0844 477 9980		http://www.westberkscab.org.uk/finda.htm
Defra	Nobel House 17 Smith Square London SW1P 3JR	08459 33 55 77	defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk	www.gov.uk
Environment Agency	Rio House Waterside Drive Aztec West Almondsbury Bristol BS32 4UD	0800 807 060 Incident Hotline 0870 8506 506 General Enquiries 0845 988 1188	enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk	www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Floodline				
Flood Protection Association	Cedar House Hazell Drive Newport NP10 8FY	033 33 23 87 01	info@thefpa.org.uk	www.thefpa.org.uk

Organisation	Address	Telephone	Email	Website
RSPCA	RSPCA Wilberforce Way Southwater Horsham RH13 9RS	0300 1234 999		www.rspca.org.uk
Thatcham Flood Forum	c/o: Council Offices Brownsfield Road Thatcham RG18 3HF	01635 863592	enquiries@thatchamfloodforum.org.uk	www.thatchamfloodforum.org.uk
Thatcham Neighbourhood Wardens		01635 869842	thatcham.wardens@sovereign.org.uk	www.sovereign.org.uk
Thatcham Town Council	Council Offices Brownsfield Road Thatcham RG18 3HF	01635 863592	enquiries@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk	www.thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Thames Valley Police	Newbury Police Station Mill Lane Newbury RG14 5QU	101 Non-emergency 999 Emergency		www.thamesvalley.police.uk
Thames Water	Thames Water PO Box 286 Swindon SN38 2RA	0845 9200 800		www.thameswater.co.uk
West Berkshire Council	Council Offices Market Street Newbury RG14 5LD	01635 42400 01635 42161 Emergencies only	info@westberks.gov.uk emergencyplanning@westberks.gov.uk	www.westberks.gov.uk

MY PERSONAL EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

Organisation	Telephone	Email	Important Information i.e. account / policy numbers
Doctor			
Electricity supplier	(Emergency 0800 072 7282)		
Gas supplier	(Emergency 0800 111 999)		
Insurance company			
Telephone provider			

Emergency Pack

An emergency could happen at any time and have a variety of consequences. One way to be better prepared is to have a readymade emergency pack in your home that is stored in an accessible area.

An emergency pack could contain:

- Copies of your home insurance documents and other important documents such as marriage/birth certificates
- Battery powered or wind-up radio with local radio frequencies marked
- Torch with spare batteries – head torches are particularly useful in flood situations, especially if you need both hands free
- First Aid kit and supplies of any medical prescriptions needed by you or anyone else you live with
- A list of useful phone numbers, such as your Doctor and close relatives
- Bottled water / canned drinks / canned and/or dried food
- Evacuation Checklist
- Warm, waterproof clothing and blankets
- Essential medication and personal items e.g. spectacles
- Baby food, nappies
- Wallet, purse and bank cards
- Mobile phone and charger
- Home and car keys
- Toiletries / sanitary supplies
- Pet carrier / lead / food

Who is responsible for managing flood risk?

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 all risk management authorities have a duty to co-operate with each other and to share data. Defra has overall national responsibility for policy on flood risk management and provides funding for flood risk management authorities through grants to the Environment Agency and local authorities.

The Environment Agency is responsible for taking a strategic overview of the management of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion. This includes, for example, setting the direction for managing the risks through strategic plans; providing evidence and advice to inform Government policy and support others; working collaboratively to support the development of risk management skills and capacity; and providing a framework to support local delivery. The Agency also has operational responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs, estuaries and the sea, as well as being a coastal erosion risk management authority.

Lead Local Flood Authorities (West Berkshire Council) are responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas and for maintaining a register of flood risk assets. They also have lead responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

District Councils (West Berkshire Council) are key partners in planning local flood risk management and can carry out flood risk management works on minor watercourses, working with Lead Local Flood Authorities and others, including through taking decisions on development in their area which ensure that risks are effectively managed.

Internal Drainage Boards are independent public bodies responsible for water level management in low lying areas, and work in partnership with other authorities to actively manage and reduce the risk of flooding.

Highway Authorities (West Berkshire Council) are responsible for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches and must ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk.

Water and Sewerage Companies (Thames Water) are responsible for managing the risks of flooding from water and foul or combined sewer systems providing drainage from buildings and yards.

Eleven **Regional Flood and Coastal Committees** have been established in England and are responsible for ensuring coherent plans are in place for identifying, communicating and managing flood and coastal erosion risks across catchments and shorelines; for promoting efficient, targeted investment in flood and coastal erosion risk management; and for providing a link between flood risk management authorities and other relevant bodies to develop mutual understanding of flood and coastal erosion risks in their areas.

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), through Local Planning Authorities, has a key role in the planning process to ensure flood risk is appropriately taken into account within the planning process. The National Planning Policy Framework details policies of how flood risk is taken into account. DCLG is also responsible for Building Regulations.

Glossary of Terms

River Flooding (Fluvial)

This is flooding as a result of rivers and streams overtopping their banks.

Flash/Surface Water Flooding (Pluvial)

This flooding occurs during periods of extremely heavy rainfall, often over short periods. This can be due to problems with drains, the ground being already saturated or extremely dry causing run off or due to the sheer volume of water causing 'flash' flooding in areas not normally prone to flooding.

Groundwater Flooding

This is flooding caused as a result of excess rainwater filling up aquifers after it has filtered through the soils.

Drainage Systems:

Drains: are pipelines which move foul sewage or surface water runoff from a single property. A drain is still a drain, even if it passes outside the property boundary and until it joins a sewer. Maintenance is the responsibility of Thames Water / property owner.

Inspection Chambers: are chambers constructed on drains at changes of direction or level in the pipeline and for the purpose of gaining access for maintenance. Maintenance is the responsibility of Thames Water.

Highways Drains: are pipelines which move surface water runoff from the public highway only. Highway drains discharge to public sewers, water courses, rivers or a combination of all three. Maintenance is the responsibility of West Berkshire Council.

Highway Gullies: receive surface water runoff from the highway. They trap minor debris and are linked to highway drainage systems. They normally have some water sitting in them. Maintenance is the responsibility of West Berkshire Council.

Highway Grips: are small channels cut through highway verges to convey surface water runoff from the highway directly to roadside ditches or watercourses. Maintenance is the responsibility of West Berkshire Council.

Sewers: are pipelines which move foul sewage or surface water runoff from more than one property. They are normally the responsibility of Thames Water.

Manholes: are chambers constructed on sewers at changes of direction or level in the pipeline and for the purpose of gaining access for maintenance. For manholes on public sewers maintenance is the responsibility of Thames Water.

Culverts: are pipelines usually of a fairly large diameter (450mm or greater) which move surface water, land drainage or river water through a catchment area to an outfall such as a river or other major watercourse. Maintenance is generally the responsibility of the Riparian Owner except where they pass under highways where responsibility passes to West Berkshire Council. Thames Water is responsible for maintenance of some culverts but not in all cases.

Trash Screens: are metal grills fixed across the entry points to culverts to prevent children and animals gaining access and to prevent debris being washed in. Maintenance depends on the precise location but is generally the responsibility of either Thames Water or West Berkshire Council.

Balancing Ponds: are large concave areas of open land designed to temporarily accommodate excess surface water when a rain storm generates runoff in excess of the capacity of the piped system. Responsibility for maintenance varies and may be Thames Water, West Berkshire Council, the Highway Agency or private landowners.

Open Watercourses:

Ditches: are channels, usually man made, cut for the purpose of conveying surface water runoff to streams and rivers. Maintenance is the responsibility of Riparian Owners.

Roadside Ditches: these are the responsibility of the adjacent landowner even if they are outside the property boundary. Maintenance is the responsibility of Riparian Owners. The only exception is if they have been dug by the Highway Authority - either West Berkshire Council or the Highways Agency depending on who maintains the road, specifically for the purpose of draining the highway.

Streams: are usually naturally occurring watercourses which tend to meander through open land, receive surface water from the surrounding land and ditch networks and discharge to the river system. Maintenance is the responsibility of Riparian Owners.

Main Rivers: maintenance is the responsibility of the Riparian Owner. The Environment Agency has permissive powers to carry out maintenance on parts of these rivers, where funding and resource allow, to reduce flood risk.

Flood Plain: is a natural feature and is defined as an area of land along the course of a river valley that has historically been the subject of flooding. The responsibility of flood plains remains with the landowners.

Sluices: are control structures on watercourses, primarily on the rivers and canal. They were constructed to control water levels and the flow volumes. Maintenance is the responsibility of the individual owners. In some circumstances the Environment Agency has certain powers or agreements to operate the sluices.

Riparian Owner & Responsibilities:

Riparian Owner: you are a Riparian Owner under common law if any river or watercourse lies within or adjacent to the boundaries of your property. Where a watercourse is between your property and an adjacent property you may have joint riparian responsibilities. The watercourse may range from a reasonable sized ditch/river with a constant flow to nothing more than a depression which carries water infrequently. Watercourses may also be piped.

Land Drainage Authority: West Berkshire Council is the local Land Drainage Authority under the Land Drainage Act 1991. The Act gives the Council the power to deal with obstructions in ordinary watercourses where that obstruction to the flow of water creates a risk of flooding. In order to use the powers the Council has a policy relating to the formal action process which includes service of notices on landowners through to doing the works and then recovering the costs from the riparian owner.

Riparian Owners are responsible for:

- maintaining the bed and banks of the watercourse including trees and shrubs growing on the banks, and for clearing any debris, natural or otherwise
- allowing water to pass on without obstruction, pollution or diversion affecting the rights of others and you must not cause any obstruction to the free passage of fish
- keeping the bed levels clear of matter that could cause an obstruction, either on your land or by being washed away by high flow to obstruct a structure downstream
- rivers and their banks should not be used for the disposal of any form of garden or other waste
- keeping clear any structures that you own such as culverts; trash screens weirs and sluice gates.

THATCHAM FLOODFORUM



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY

Description of the opportunity

To assist Thatcham Flood Forum in its aim to reduce the risk of flooding in Thatcham by helping to implement the Forum's five year Action Plan by offering any of the following support:

- | | |
|---|--|
| i. Administration | Minute taking, communicating with flooding authorities |
| ii. Marketing | Raising the profile of Thatcham Flood Forum |
| iii. Website / Social Media | Uploading data to the website and Facebook / Twitter |
| iv. Expertise in Flooding, Drainage or similar matters | Offering knowledge and expertise |

Location

Meetings are held at the Council Offices, Brownfield Road, Thatcham plus working from home.

Volunteer Commitment

To attend the Flood Forum meetings, held every other month and of approximately two hour duration, plus carrying out work generated at these meetings from home, estimated at around one to two hours per week.

Skills & Qualifications Required

None essential.

Times for the opportunity

Meetings are held on a weekday evening, usually a Wednesday, starting at 7 p.m. Working from home hours can be to suit.

Equal opportunities policy	Yes
Expenses	Paid
Induction	Full induction will be given
Support on offer	Full support is available for all tasks
Training	Appropriate training will be given

Contact name	Mel Alexander
Main telephone	01635 863592
Email	mel.alexander@thatchamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Address	Thatcham Flood Forum, c/o Council Offices, Brownsfield Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HF