

# The Vernham Dean Community

## Flood/Emergency Plan

Effective Date: from November 2015  
Revised November 2023



### **Useful information – Government guidance**

There is some helpful information on the government website (full url and short url for each link below):

Flooding / extreme weather - <https://rb.gy/q300p>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather>

Flooding / ground water - <https://rb.gy/058zb>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-from-groundwater>

You can also sign up for flood warnings for your property - <https://rb.gy/ogxtu>

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

These can all be found by searching using Google. If you do not have access to the internet, please let one of the Vernham Dean Flood / Emergency Response Coordinators know (contact details below) and we will supply printed copies.

## Vernham Dean Contacts

### Vernham Dean Flood / Emergency Response Coordinators (VDFRC):

Rachel Kent. Email: [rachelkent@btinternet.com](mailto:rachelkent@btinternet.com) Tel: 737722 or 07795 344546

Jules Raymond Email: [jeraymond19@gmail.com](mailto:jeraymond19@gmail.com) Tel: 737797 or 07725 416019

John Hale Email: [johnhaleho@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhaleho@btinternet.com) Tel: 737208 or 07967 564491 (Chair of Vernham Dean Parish Council)

### Local Flood Warning trigger:

- Flood warning from Environment Agency
- Call from Hampshire County Council Emergency Planning Duty officer
- Water level indicator on <https://sites.google.com/view/groundwatergraphs/home/groundwater-data/hampshire/bourne-valley-vernham-dean>

This plan gives general guidance to the local community only, outlines actions to be taken by responsible groups and organisations and recognises that it is complementary to the County, Borough and Emergency Services plans in existence.

Any member of the Vernham Dean parish is welcome to contact the Vernham Dean Flood / Emergency Response Coordinators (VDFRC) for advice and support both pre and during flood warnings.

## **Aim and Objectives of the Plan**

### **Aim**

To harness local resources and expertise to enable the community to help itself in a way that complements the response of the emergency services.

Whilst the focus of this document relates to further flooding in the village, as experienced in February 2014, it can also be utilised for other emergency events such as major fire, storm damage, aircraft accident, chemical spillage etc.

### **Objectives**

- Identify hazards and possible mitigation.
- Identify key contacts.
- Identify a community emergency management team.
- Identify resources available to the community in the event of an emergency.
- Provide support for vulnerable groups within the community if requested.

### **1. Activation of the Plan**

The Plan will be activated when the Emergency Team agree to act in response to a situation.

### **2. Emergency Team**

Members of the emergency team include the following:

- Vernham Dean Flood/Emergency Response Coordinators (VDFRC)
- Chair of the Vernham Dean Parish Council
- Parish Council members who can help
- Volunteer members of the community

### **3. Incident Room**

An incident room will be established as necessary at the Vernham Dean Millennium Hall:

- Rest Centre, place of safety, toilet amenities
- Aim to be manned daily (subject to volunteers as nominated by the Millennium Hall Committee), times will be communicated during the incident.
- Source of updated information

#### 4. Communications

Distribution List for Flood/Emergency Plan:

- Village website, [www.vernhamdean.org.uk](http://www.vernhamdean.org.uk)
- The George Inn
- The Vernham Dean Flood/Emergency Response Coordinators (VDFRC)
- WI Chair
- Chair of the Parish Council of Vernham Dean

Updates during emergency:

- Village website, [www.vernhamdean.org.uk](http://www.vernhamdean.org.uk)
- The George Inn
- The Vernham Dean Flood/Emergency Response Coordinator (VDFRC)
- Village email list
- Village noticeboards
- WI Chair
- Facebook
- Initial communication to homes in defined risk areas by flyer delivered to home.
- Word of mouth

#### 5. Pre Flood

##### Locations at risk of flooding – Flood warnings

Area No.	Trigger level	Actions
<b>Area 1</b>	Water visible, ground water level 120, early warning for Area 2 & 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure village Response Plan is activated &amp; communicated.</li> <li>- VDFRC contacts agencies (HCC, TVBC, Highways, EA), coordinates sandbags, available pumps ready and jerry cans filled with fuel</li> <li>- House owners prepare for potential flood.</li> <li>- Volunteers identified and briefed</li> </ul>
<b>Area 2</b>	Water visible in gardens & school grounds	Ensure homes are prepared for potential flood, request help where needed
<b>Area 3</b>	Pond contains water. Water visible in cellars Auto pumps active	Ensure homes are prepared for potential flood, request help where needed

##### Local Risk Assessment

Risks	Impact on Community	What can we do to prepare
Groundwater rises beyond 120 MAOD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flooding of local roads, restricting access to/from village</li> <li>- Damage to village homes, School, Pub</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage villagers to improve home flood defences.</li> <li>- Work with local emergency responders to</li> </ul>

		see if they can help with distribution of flood warnings, flood prevention assistance and any evacuation
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### Vernham Dean Map



- Area 1:** From Burydean Cottages to the recreation field
- Area 2:** From Vernham Dean School to Appletree Cottage
- Area 3:** From Denver Cottage to the end of Back Lane

### Householder Actions for Preparation

#### Householders Self Support Network

It is recommended that:

- householders register with the Environment Agency to receive flood warnings to their private telephone numbers by using the Floodline number.
- close neighbours exchange telephone numbers for use in any flood emergency
- Buddying' arrangements are encouraged for mutual assistance – e.g., when deploying household flood barriers. This may be especially needed for the support of elderly or infirm neighbours. Any villagers needing support should also contact the Vernham Dean Flood Response Coordinators (VDFRC).
- Householders have their own personal emergency plan containing important contact numbers, documents and details of any medication.

## **Preparation for an emergency**

To allow yourself to be prepared for an emergency you should take time to find out:

- Where and how you turn off water and electricity supplies to your home
- The emergency procedures for your children at school
- The emergency procedures for your place of work
- How you would stay in contact with your family
- If there are any elderly or vulnerable people might need your help
- How to tune into your local radio stations
- How to contact your household insurers
- Ensure you keep a stock of bottled water, ready to eat food and a bottle/tin opener
- Stock up on oil, wood, bottled gas or coal as required
- Sign up to the free flood warning service offered by the Environment Agency
- Understand what your house insurance policy (or any other cover that you have) covers you for and who to contact to make a claim.
- Have plans for where your pets will be kept safe (e.g. With friends and relatives or make arrangements with dog / cat homes as appropriate) should you need to evacuate
- Have a plan of where you will park your vehicles in the event of a flood warning

## **What should you do if you must evacuate your home?**

Before you need to evacuate gather together:

- A list of useful telephone numbers e.g., doctor and close relatives
- Home and car keys
- Toiletries, sanitary supplies, and prescribed medication
- Battery radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries
- First aid kit
- Mobile phone and charger
- Cash and credit cards
- Legal documents e.g. insurance policies, car registration forms, birth certificates etc.
- Spare clothes and blankets

Once you need to leave your home:

- Turn off electricity, gas and water supplies, ensure there is a bung in each toilet & unplug appliances.
- Lock all doors and windows.
- Ensure all pets are catered for.

- Park any vehicles above the likely highest point the water will reach.
- Contact your house insurance company to inform them and to understand what your insurance cover will pay for.

### **Preparation of Home**

- **Sandbags.** Test Valley Borough Council should supply sandbags in the event of an emergency, please contact 01264 368000. Householders can source additional ones, most DIY stores stock them or plastic bags can be filled with soil.
- **Sewers and drains.** Using no-return valves, plugs, bungs and fixing drain covers can reduce flooding in these areas. Most builders' merchants will advise on this. Details of a type of toilet bung can be found here <https://www.ukflooddefencealliance.com/product/floodtite-toilet-panseal/> Other suppliers will have alternatives. If no toilet bung is available a sandbag wrapped in a towel will often work well.  
If you are unable to use your toilets, then it may be necessary to arrange for a Port-a-loo. various suppliers are available locally.  
The Millennium Hall will where possible be open and the toilets available for public use.
- **Belongings, including valuables and documents.** Take anything of value upstairs or store above the likely water level at the first sign of a problem.

### **Landowners**

The owners of land adjoining a highway have a common-law duty to maintain ditches to prevent them causing a nuisance to road users. Should a Parishioner have a concern; a member of the Parish Council should be contacted rather than approaching the Landowner direct.

## **6. Flood Actions**

### **What should you do in an emergency?**

- Call 999 if there are people injured or a threat to life exists
- **DO NOT PUT YOURSELF IN DANGER**
- Listen to the advice of the emergency services
- Stay calm and think before taking any action
- Try to help others and be reassuring

### **Village actions to be taken during a flood - Coordinated by the Vernham Dean Flood / Emergency Response Coordinators and assistants.**

Area No.	Action/trigger	Local action	Equipment Required	Time Required
Area 1	Water visible, ground water level 120, early warning for Area 2 & 3	VDFRC to contact - HCC for bowser - EA for pump	Bowser with tractor	Immediate & on-going
Area 2	Water visible in gardens & school grounds	Volunteers Start PC pumps	- Available pumps - Additional sandbags if available	Immediate & on-going pump management/refuelling 24/7
Area 3	Pond contains water & water visible in cellars  Auto pumps active	Home owners to contact VDFRC if help needed	Additional sandbags if available	Immediate

### **Actions to be taken during a flood – arrangements between authorities**

Organisations	Agreed arrangements
Hampshire County Council	Highway safety
Test Valley Borough Council	Possible Sandbag provision
Environment Agency	Provision of pumps when available

### **DEPLOYMENT OF PUMPS**

#### **1) Identification of need**

- a) Alerts from Environment Agency
- b) Information from other communities (e.g. Hurstbourne Tarrant and Upton)
- c) Water levels in wells, especially at The George
- d) Presence of standing water on Burydene
- e) Commencement of pumping from households along main road, notably The Old Bakery, Masons, Pond Cottage, Lilac Cottage, Deers Leap and Mulberry Cottage

#### **2) Deployment of village 3” pumps**

These pumps can be deployed quickly and the three 3” pumps owned by the village can therefore be loaned to members of the community as and when required.

The three village pumps which are regularly maintained are kept by kind permission of David Sullivan in the barn at Poplars Farm. The combination for the padlock is held by the following parish councillors:

Adrian Butt 737213 & John Hale 737208 (or 07967 564491)

Potential sources of larger pumps have been identified and will be requested at the appropriate time.

These pumps would be delivered on a trailer and will be sited in Dean Close, again with the co-operation of residents and Aster Property. The minimum hire is for one week, costs to be borne by the Parish Council who will apply for reimbursement from HCC/TVBC.

The second (shallower) sump in School Close will only be used in an emergency but this will assume that 1, School Close and possibly School Cottage will have been inundated.

The hoses will follow the route shown in the plan below. This will take place with the co-operation of residents of 1 and 2 School Close, and the school. The hoses will discharge into the ditch at the Burydene approx. 20m from the school fence.



## 7. Roles and Responsibilities and Contact Information

### Role:

#### Prior to emergency

- Plan Governance – annual updates, to include review of contacts ([community.resilience@hants.gov.uk](mailto:community.resilience@hants.gov.uk) local emergency responders update)
- To maintain the Vernham Dean Community Emergency Plan
  - To provide a link with the Borough and County Emergency Planning Officers
  - To call a community meeting (if required)
  - To provide the local community response to an emergency

#### During emergency

- Initiate execution of plan
- Monitor deployment of plan and amend actions as required.

The Parish Council will declare the emergency measures ended after appropriate discussions with affected residents.

### **List of Volunteers**

The VDFRC will maintain a master list of volunteers, with the details below: These names will be validated by the VDRC at the time of plan activation, based on volunteer's actual availability at the time.

A Telephone Tree system will be used if required to speed communication.

## **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

### **HAMPSHIRE POLICE**

- Overall co-ordination of the multi-agency response
- Work with Hampshire Highways to co-ordinate traffic diversions and road closures
- Direct evacuees safely to designated assembly points
- Assist in identifying vulnerable residents
- Save life in co-operation with the other emergency services
- Co-ordinate media and public information
- Provide security (as far as is reasonably practical) to evacuated properties
- Assist with recovery activities

### **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

- Responsible primarily for saving life, rescue and recovery.
- Undertake damage control operations – which may include pumping out flooded homes (where resources allow) and critical infrastructures such as electricity substations.

### **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

- Assess fluvial and coastal flood risk
- Issue flood warnings
- Receive and record details of significant flooding incidents
- Monitor the situation and advise other responding agencies
- Deal with emergency repairs and blockages on main rivers and EA assets (eg: culverts)

- Respond to pollution incidents
- Advise on waste disposal issues

#### **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

- Co-ordinate Local Authority services for flood incidents and support the evacuation of residents from their homes where necessary
- Maintain safe conditions on the roads
- Put flood warning signs on the highways
- Organise road closures and traffic diversions
- Clear blockages on highway drainage systems
- Take action to protect property from flooding by water from the highway where there is a failure of the highway drainage system
- Identify any vulnerable residents and deploy available trained officers to assist with door knocking / evacuation
- Provide emergency sheltering and catering to support evacuees

#### **TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

- Co-ordinate Borough Council resources in managing any flood emergency
- Environmental Health Issues - Pollution
- Provide assistance with emergency accommodation for residents unable to reoccupy their homes

#### **WATER COMPANIES (Southern Water)**

- Emergency pumping or tankering at pumping stations
- Provision of bottled water where appropriate

#### **ELECTRICITY, GAS AND TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES**

- Attend to emergencies involving their services to any properties that may be at risk from flooding
- Attend to flooding emergencies affecting their own assets
- Carry out checks on installations to properties affected by flooding prior to Reconnection

## Community Resources

- **Air Ambulance landing sites**

The air Ambulance will land as close as possible to the incident dependent upon the Emergency.

- **Medical/First Aid**

In the event of injury or illness within the community the assistance of professional medical support should be sought in the first instance

- **Village Defibrillator**

If Cardiac arrest is suspected CALL 999 FIRST.

The Vernham Dean Parish automatic external defibrillator is located in the green cabinet on the wall adjacent to the entrance to the Millennium Hall and can be used to restart a person's heart if it has stopped as a result of a heart attack. The Defibrillator belongs to the Parish and has been purchased through the South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS). SCAS has provided training in the use of the Defibrillator to a number of volunteer parishioners who are referred to as a Parish Responder. If SCAS receive a 999 call relating to a heart attack, they will contact one of the Responders who will bring the Parish Defibrillator to the incident. This Defibrillator will be in addition to that carried by the Ambulance Service.

More information is available on the village website <http://vernhamdean.com/DEFIBRILLATOR>