

Folkestone Stage 2 Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). Community Briefing Note Number 1.

November 2013.

I am concerned about flooding in my area. How will a Surface Water Management Plan help?

Surface water management plans investigate all forms of “local” flooding – these include flooding directly from heavy rainfall running and ponding overland, flooding from sewers and highway drains overloaded by heavy rain, flooding from “ordinary” (minor) watercourses and from groundwater. In addition we want to understand whether high water levels in “Main” rivers causes them to back up and prevent surface water sewers from draining properly.

OK, so what is being done about it?

A stage one study covering all of Folkestone and Hythe has been carried out the details of which can be found [here](#).

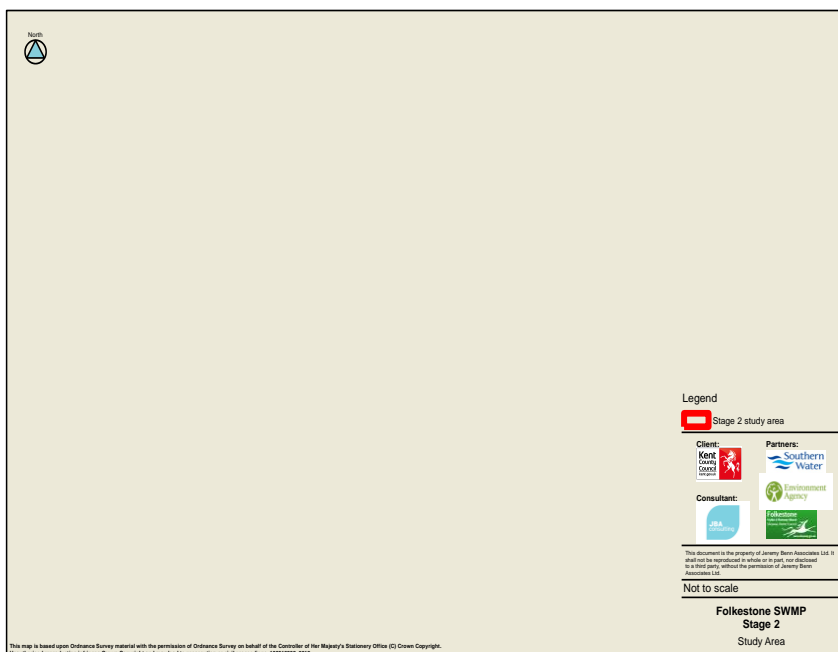
This identified several areas which needed further investigation to better understand drainage and any other related issues which can contribute to surface water flooding. The Stage Two Folkestone Surface Water Management Plan is now looking at this in greater detail.

If you already know what some of the problems are, why aren't they being tackled? Why does it take so long?

Drainage problems in urban areas can be complex and there are no “one size fits all” solutions . It is therefore very important that as much information as possible on where, how and how often flooding occurs is obtained so that the best solution in the circumstances can be found. The process involves technical stages including 'modelling' where locations and types of rainfall and other contributory factors are tested to see where, how deep and how often flooding might occur. After that 'options' (ways of tackling the problems) are looked at, once again to see what might work best - and in practical terms could be delivered. An Action Plan is then produced setting out what will be done and by whom.

What areas are included in this?

We're looking at the Cheriton, Morehall and Foord areas of Folkestone to the north of the railway line. These are the areas inside the red line on the map (right). This area drains to the Pent Stream, which rises in several locations to the north of Folkestone. Much of the Pent Stream is now hidden below the ground in pipes and culverts. Within this area we are investigating all parts of the drainage systems including the streets and highway drain, sewers and the Pent Stream itself.



And who is involved in sorting this out?

Kent County Council (KCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority is managing the project overall. The requirements to tackle Surface Water Flooding calls for a partnership approach, involving those who have a key role in finding solutions. In this case, Shepway District Council, Southern Water and the Environment Agency are in the partnership along with KCC.

What are the timescales?

Activity	Oct-13	Nov-13	Dec-13	Jan-14	Feb-14	Mar-14	Apr-14 onwards
Risk assessment: Use the model and the evidence of previous flooding to assess the risk and prioritise areas							
Options: Assess options to reduce flood risk. For feasible options, calculate the costs and benefits.							
Prepare draft plan: The plan will set out the causes and risks of flooding and the options to address it.							
Review draft plan: The partner organisations will review the plan, then a draft final version ready for wider discussion.							
Communications and engagement: both internal (e.g. parks and leisure, highways) and external (e.g. residents, community groups).							
Finalise the plan and start to implement.							

Will I be able to see the results and have my say?

Yes. Right now, we would like to hear from you if you have experienced flooding in the last 5 years within the study area. To report flooding, either contact one of the project representatives below or make a report on the [Kent County Council online Flood Recording Tool](#). We have already collected and mapped all of the flooding records held by KCC, Shepway DC, the Environment Agency or Southern Water, so if you have already reported the flooding to one of these organisations you don't need to report it again, unless you have more information to share i.e. photos of flooding.

It is essential that affected residents and businesses, councillors and the different departments within the council get the chance to contribute their ideas and opinions on any options proposed within the Plan. We are currently planning how, where and when this engagement will take place, but there will be opportunities to comment on and contribute to the Plan, which will be publicised in advance.

Who can I speak to about this?

For further information, please contact:

Name	Role	Contact details
Max Tant	Kent County Council Flood Risk Manager, project sponsor.	01622 221691 max.tant@kent.gov.uk

We would also like to identify community representatives in the areas at risk of flooding. If you or someone you know would be interested in finding out more about this, please do contact us.