COPYTHORNE
PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH FLOOD PLAN - 2026



Website version – updated January 2026

Please keep this Flood Plan in a safe place for reference in times of a possible flooding emergency.

The rear page is available as a separate document on the Parish Council's website and you may consider it is something to have available for reference purpose

INTRODUCTION

i. This document is designed to assist Copythorne Parish Council and those living within the Parish to be able to understand their own risk of flooding and to be better able to prepare and respond to a flooding event affecting their property or in their immediate area.

ii. You can check the flood risk in the general area of your home by consulting the details shown on page 2 of this document.

iii. If you are seeking help urgently please go immediately to the last page of this leaflet where emergency contact details are given.

iv. Whilst any area or property can be at risk of flooding, the Environment Agency surface water flooding maps of the area, combined with the knowledge of past flooding incidents, have shown the areas of the Parish that are vulnerable to surface water flooding and more details are to be given in later update reports from the Council Flooding Advisory Committee.

v. Property owners are responsible for the protection of their own properties and some house owners within the Parish have already installed flood protection measures to make their homes more resilient to a flooding incident.

vi. Property owners are responsible for protecting their own properties and it should be noted that the New Forest District Council (NFDC) no longer provides sand bags to homeowners.

vii. If you are unable to find the details you require in this flood plan and you are not in any immediate risk of flooding please initially contact David Rigby, Clerk to Copythorne Parish Council, either by email at: **parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk** or telephone on 023 8112 0150.

viii. This plan has been prepared by Copythorne Parish Council's Flooding Advisory Committee whose current members are:

- Cllr. Sherri Johnstone (chair) Cllr. Graham Chillcott Cllr. Sylvia Wiggins Cllr. Ria Parry-Norton; Cllr. Graham Caton

The contact details for all councillors are available on the Council website at: https://www.copythorne.org.uk/parish-councillors/

This document is expected to be updated annually. Please send any comments, which will be welcomed, to the Clerk to the Council.

KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK



CHECKING THE LONG TERM FLOOD RISK IN YOUR AREA

Use the highlighted link below to find out:

The long term flood risk for an area in England; the possible causes of flooding; and how to manage flood risk

The results are an indicator of an area's flood risk, particularly the likelihood of surface water flooding.

It is not suitable for identifying whether an individual property will flood.

It does not include the flood risk from sources such as blocked drains.

The flood risk assessment for the area around where you live can be accessed on the following link by entering your post code and property name or number in the following gov.uk website link:

https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk

Depending on the information that is returned following your search there is the opportunity to use the interactive maps and links available to obtain further information including:

1) Managing flood risk 2) Preparing for flooding 3) Protecting your property 4) Insurance and moving house

The Government/Environment Agency https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings is continually being updated with flood warnings and gives further links to more information. The nationally recognised warning system has three levels that are designed to help individuals and communities prepare for the risk of flooding and take action.



FLOOD ALERT

What it means:
FLOODING IS POSSIBLE

BE PREPARED

When it's used: Two hours to two days in advance of possible flooding

Impacts likely to be seen: Flooding/standing water on fields and roads, watercourses near to or exceeding their capacities and overflowing footpaths and roads.

What to do: Monitor water levels in watercourses near to your home and/or business. Regularly check current flood warnings and local news reports



FLOOD WARNING

What it means:
FLOODING IS EXPECTED

IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

When it's used: Half an hour or one day in advance of possible flooding

Impacts likely to be seen: Flooding of homes and businesses. Flooding of roads making some impassable. Major transport disruptions. Extensive flooding of open forest areas –overtopping of rivers into adjoining areas.

What to do: Protect yourself, your family and, if possible, help others. Move family, pets and valuables to a safe place. Put flood protection equipment in place, check pumps etc. If you are caught in a flash flood, get to higher ground.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

What it means:
SEVERE FLOODING

DANGER TO LIFE

When it's used: When flooding poses a significant threat to life or disruption to communities

Impacts likely to be seen: Fast and, especially in watercourses, deep flowing water. Severe road flooding. Forest areas inundated. Some roads/footpaths impassable to pedestrians and vehicles. Flood water contaminated with sewage.

What to do: Stay in a safe place, make contact with family and neighbours. Be ready should you need to evacuate from your home. Cooperate with the emergency services.

Call 999 if you are in immediate danger

TYPES OF FLOODING

1. There are many recognized types of flooding sources, including:
    - Sea (tidal)
    - River (fluvial)
    - Surface Water (roads, ditches, fields)
    - Groundwater (high water table)
    - Sewage (sewer, rising mains and wastewater pumping stations)
      Potable Water (mains drinking water failure)

2. The main causes of surface water flooding in the Parish of Copythorne arise from Bartley Water and Cadnam River overflowing or from surface water that is unable to run away or disperse through natural drainage or drainage systems that have been constructed.
3. Inevitably when flood water is at a level that is flowing across roads, fields and forest areas there will be substantial infiltration of surface water into the piped foul sewage system leading to the possible contamination of flood water entering gardens and properties.

TYPES OF WATERCOURSES

A Main River is defined as a watercourse identified as such by legislation and can include any structure or appliance for controlling or regulating the flow of water in, into or out of a main river. The Environment Agency has powers to carry out flood defence works on main rivers only.

Within the Parish of Copythorne are the Main Rivers of Cadnam, Blackwater and Bartley Water. In addition, because of their importance in relation to reducing the risks of flooding, several watercourses have been designated main rivers.

The location within the Parish of Copythorne and adjoining areas of Main Rivers are shown on the plan available for viewing on the dedicated Flooding section of the Parish Council's website (https://www.copythorne.org.uk/flooding/) .

All other watercourses are designated as being ordinary watercourses - whether on public or privately owned land - and come under the regulation of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) which is Hampshire County Council

A WATERCOURSE NEAR TO OR ON YOUR PROPERTY - RIPARIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

1. It is very likely, if you have a watercourse close to your boundary or on your property, you have riparian responsibilities. Your responsibilities for watercourses on or near your property and permissions you need to do work around them are given on the following link: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse
2. There are very few circumstances where a ditch or watercourse located between your property and a public footpath or road is not, under your riparian responsibility, for you to maintain in good order. Any pipe/culvert under a vehicular crossover from the road to your property is your responsibility to keep free flowing.
3. Hampshire County Council have produced a useful video (available via the following YouTube link) on riparian responsibilities
4. If you are unsure of the extent of any riparian responsibilities that may accrue to your property please contact the Clerk to the Council who will assist in clarifying the situation.
5. The guides noted in the next section and also available for viewing on the Council's website may be of particular interest for anyone wishing to understand their riparian responsibilities in relation to watercourses near to their home

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Flood and water management information can be found on the Hampshire County Council's (HCC) website at: https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding. Particularly the "Managing Flood Risk" section from which the following guides can be accessed:
    - Community Toolkit (for Flooding)
    - Flood risk management guidance for landowners
    - Advice on riparian responsibilities and ditch maintenance
    - Guide to Ordinary Watercourse Consenting

    (Copies of all the above information leaflets are also available for viewing on the Council's website.)
2. Flooding advice given on the New Forest District Council's (NFDC) website at: http://www.newforest.gov.uk/flooding
3. A copy of the Environment Agency's Personal Flood Plan template can be found via this link: Personal Flood Plan

In an emergency situation dial 999 to contact the police, fire brigade, ambulance service or coastguard

The following contact details relate to the particular flooding issue to be checked/reported:

Highway Drainage/Ordinary Watercourses
Hampshire County Council is both the Highway Authority and the Lead Local Flood Authority
Telephone: 0300 555 1375
https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/flooding/floodprevention

Main Rivers
Environment Agency
Telephone: 0800 80 70 60
https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident

Sewers, wastewater pumping stations
Southern Water
Telephone: 0330 303 0368
24 hour Technical Department
https://www.southernwater.co.uk

Motorways and major A roads (including watercourses within fenced highway areas)
National Highways
Telephone: 0300 123 5000
https://nationalhighways.co.uk/

Copythorne Parish Council

Telephone: 023 8112 0150

https://www.copythorne.org.uk