

Great Alne Parish Council – Project Progress Report

Project Name: CCCF023 - Flood Mitigation

Report Date: March 2026

1) Project Objectives:

This phase of the project will:

- Monitor the status of FLAG assets (Road Drains, Ditches, Culverts and Grills)
- Manage action plans for each FLAG asset as required
- Undertake exploration of future blockages/constrictions
- Monitor remedial works including Road Drain clearing/maintenance, Ditch clearing/excavation, Culvert maintenance/clearing and Grill management.
- Investigate the potential for independent Drain Clearance and Road Sweeping throughout the village.
- Report progress to **Great Alne Parish Council**

2) Progress against Plan:

Achievements this period:

- Regular communications continue with Statutory bodies, Landowners and other key organisations.
- Warwickshire County Council delivery team planned to clear the Pelham Lane ditch on the 13/14 November, however Storm Claudia caused postponement – - work rescheduled for 16 March the tree root will not be removed, GAPC need to contact the landowner to request removal.
- WCC attended the village on several occasions during January and February to perform emergency drain clearance works due to periods of heavy rainfall.
- WCC attended Sernal Lane / Appleby Drive junction to resolve the “blocked” culvert. The team spent 3 days (4 – 6th February) on site clearing the drains and culverts in the area and in Appleby Drive, however, the reported collapsed culvert on Sernal Lane was not found. Torrential rain over the weekend of 7th Feb caused severe flooding in that area. WCC were informed of the situation and Kevin Mount WCC confirmed in the following email that he

“will be undertaking a full review of all works completed in this location to inform a technical appraisal of potential interventions going forward, including the feasibility of increasing the hydraulic capacity of the existing system.

As you have highlighted, any solution involving system upsizing would constitute a major engineering scheme; however, it will be included within the assessment of viable options.

Our objective is to identify an engineered mitigation that provides a measurable reduction in flood risk and improves system performance under peak flow conditions.

I will provide an update to all stakeholders by the end of February.”

- WCC commenced major works at the junction of Coughton Fields Lane/B4089. Work has included the:
 - Excavation of an open ditch from the brow of the incline on the B4089 to the entrance of the farmers field on the Great Alne side of Coughton Fields Lane,
 - Reconstruction of headwalls at the field entrance
 - Rebuilding the culvert under the field entrance and concreting access
 - Replacing a hidden drain on the GA side of Coughton Fields Lane junction (the cause of the flooding in that area)
 - Exposing a culvert under Coughton Fields Lane (which takes water towards the Grit Store and ultimately into a ditch in D Kinnersley field)
 - Constructing new kerbing at the junction to direct water into new gulleys.
 - Reconstructing the road surface at the junction to ensure the flow of water drains into the gulleys and stops the historical flooding in that area
 - Excavation of an open ditch from the Bench on the B4089 to the S Bend at Alne Cote Cottage
 - Excavate trial holes around Alne Cote S Bend to locate services prior to implementing a new 600mm pipe from School Road to the Parish Ditch
 - Implement a new 600mm pipe from the existing open ditch into the Parish Ditch
- WCC attended Park Lane to investigate/clear drains focusing on the drains around the junction with Stroat Lane.

- Several occasions of flooding during January/February, both caused by severe rainfall and high river levels stopping MCD draining Henley Road drains.
 - River Levels peaked at 2.8m in January and 2.9m in February
 - On the 9th January, a storm caused flooding on Sernal Lane and at the Kinwarton Grit Store.
 - On the 6 – 9th February significant rainfall caused the river to rise and stop Manor Court Ditch from Flowing. Sernal Lane and Appleby Drive junction also saw heavy water flow due to lack of flow capacity through the drain network in that area which led to water running to the Memorial Hall.
 - On the 13 – 15th February significant rainfall caused flooding on all 4 routes through the village, cutting Great Alne off for a period. However as a result of the works to date water levels fell quickly to enable access to the village by the morning of the 14th.
 - The village was also cut off on the night of the Friday 28th February but by lunchtime the majority of roads were accessible.
- WCC commenced the major work at Alne Cote S bend Work commenced on the S Bend – over 200m of new ditches have been dug and a new set of culverts, gullies, outlets and headwalls are being created to increase flow throughout the S Bend drainage system – this should be completed by mid March 2026 – another significant step forward.
- No progress on the construction of NFM's on Manor Court Ditch due to funding restrictions – WWT representative is not contactable. Need to contact WWT so identify new contact/personnel
- No response from the three companies contacted for RFPs for independent GAPC Drain Maintenance and Road Sweeping. (Potential 3year term) – GAPC contacted WCC to understand future maintenance works and agreed reschedule of drain maintenance and road sweeping activities post-Harvest and Leaf Fall.
- Drain RAG Status as at 20 Feb: 115 GREEN, 0 AMBER, 3 RED. – Red reported.
- Drain Guardians have continued to clear and report their drains status during this period.
- Coffee Pot Wood – no direct action with EA and Woodland Trust this period.
- No Rainfall records are being kept.

Actions not completed / deferred

- WWC Highways agreed works not completed – Pelham Lane Ditch – should have been undertaken 14 December - no planned date for works
- Pelham Lane Ditch - not cleared by Farmer / Tree root not resolved – Farmer contacted but no progress to date
- WWT NFM activities, not commenced – waiting Landowner responses to proposals

3) Actions for Next Period:

Planned actions for next period:

- Continue with Drain and Ditch monitoring/reporting activities.
- FLAG volunteers clear drains as required.
- Manage Warwickshire County Council to understand and manage additional works and associated timescales
- *Contact Kinwarton PC to apportion costs for Subscan drainage works. Are we going to do this?*
- Continue communication with the Farmers/Landowners to monitor progress and potential new initiatives.
- Recommence engagement with WWT, Landowners and Farmers to progress discussions and delivery activities/planning Manor Court Ditch improvements.
- Support WWT in any future materials harvesting and NFM construction.
- Hold a FLAG meeting to celebrate success, update team on progress and plan next steps (H1)

4) Risks and Issues:

None at this point.