



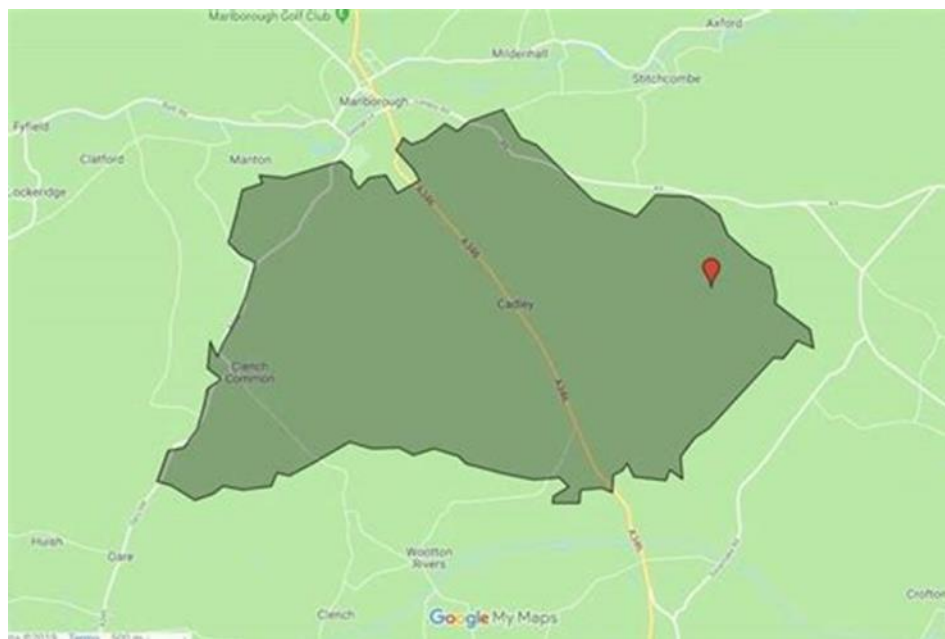
Savernake Parish Council

Flood Plan

Foreword

In light of Climate Change and the increased frequency of flooding events Parish Councils have been encouraged to produce Plans to assist residence and road users in the event of flooding within the Parish Boundary.

Savernake Parish Council area



The parish of Savernake lies directly south of Marlborough and is largely shaped by the forest on its eastern side.

Topography

Savernake Forest consists of a Wooded Plateau landscape in the western part of the North Wessex Downs National Landscape. It straddles the chalk plateau lying between Marlborough and Great Bedwyn, covering an area of 4,500 acres. The boundary of the forest is defined to the north by the valley of the River Kennet & to the south by the low-lying Vale of Pewsey, where the wooded plateau terminates as a steep scarp.

Savernake Parish Council (SPC) would ask residents to identify areas that have suffered from flooding in the past where this causes any risk to life or property.

Savernake Parish Council Community Flood Plan

There are no statutory responsibilities for Parish & Town Councils to plan for, respond to, or recover from emergencies. However, it is good practice for communities to identify hazards and make simple plans on how they will respond when faced with an emergency. The Savernake Parish Council Community Flood Plan is being created by the Parish Council so that, in the event of flooding in the our Parish there is a clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various support agencies and a list of contacts should residents require help in the event of an emergency.

SPC can help with flood prevention and precaution efforts by preparing community flood plans, organising the gathering and reporting of information on flood incidents in their community, and providing links to useful information for parishioners on their website.

A Community Flood Plan can help the community respond quickly when flooding happens and can help people decide what practical actions to take before and during a flood, helping reduce the damage flooding can cause.

This plan is intended as a guide to actions that the Parish Council, residents and businesses may take to reduce the impact of future flooding events.

We are lucky to reside in a low risk flood area, with the main risk being to flash flooding on our roads. It is therefore important to ensure you are aware of the Parish Steward scheme that operates in Wiltshire. Wiltshire's team of Parish Stewards are specially trained to complete small-scale discretionary local highways priority works to town and parishes.

This includes: Hand clearing and cutting of growth from drainage grips and drain gully covers; Hand clearing of blocked gullies; Rodding of drainage systems; Clearing of small culverts, pipes, and pits and Clearing storm debris.

In the event of flash flooding occurring, which harms anyone or their property or has the potential to do so, please inform SPC so we can plot / map the affected area for future planning and we can signpost agencies who may be able to assist.

If the flooding affects roads then please also inform Wiltshire Council Highways and Wiltshire police where life and property are at risk.

It should also be recognised that Savernake Parish Council is not an emergency service. It is not trained, equipped or empowered as an emergency service, nor does it have the same resources. The response should generally be confined to preparing the community in advance of an emergency, assisting with the welfare of the community during and after a flooding event.

Possible Flood Causes

Surface water flooding

The main flood risk to parts of the community is from surface water flooding, sometimes known as flash flooding, this:

- happens when heavy rain cannot drain away

- is difficult to predict as it depends on rainfall volume and location
- can happen up hills and away from rivers and other bodies of water
- is more widespread in areas with harder surfaces like concrete

Lead local flood authorities (LLFA) are responsible for managing the flood risk from surface water and may hold more detailed information. Wiltshire Council is our LLFA.

Surface water flooding can happen very quickly and SPC would encourage properties at risk to take steps before it occurs to increase the resistance of their properties to flooding.

Blockages or collapse of a culvert & ditches

To prevent a blockage occurring, owners should monitor culverts and ditches on their property and clear them of any accumulating debris if they can. If it is not possible to clear the accumulated debris then the Parish Council should be informed as soon as possible, so that alternatives arrangements for clearing can be made or the appropriate services informed / signposted. The known problem gullies within the Parish are checked and cleared regularly by the Parish Steward.

Parishioners are advised to put the **My Wilts** app onto their phone, it can be downloaded from <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>. You can use **My Wilts** to report various issues in Wiltshire, for example:

- Weather emergencies, including flooding events.
- Abandoned vehicles, fraud, fly tipping, dog mess and graffiti

Over time Wiltshire Council will be adding more services to *My Wilts*, making it simpler, quicker and easier for you to access their services digitally, when you choose to.

Alternatively, problems can be reported to Wiltshire Council via the same website.

Precautionary Actions

With careful planning, local flood action can reduce the impact of flooding. Sensible precautions should be taken to avoid risk to life by rising flood waters and exposure to health risks, for instance due to pollution of the foul sewer system.

SPC can ask Wiltshire Council – as part of their Discretionary Gulley Emptying Service – to ask their gulley emptying team to come out and address sites of concern. This is not emergency work but is a discretionary service aimed at rural areas. It could take up to 6 weeks for the team to schedule works, so it is worth planning ahead to identify gulleys that may need emptying or that are cause for concern.

SPC Preparatory Action

- SPC is enrolled into the Wiltshire Council Parish Emergency Assistance Scheme (PEAS) enabling it to access flood defence equipment. Signage etc.
- SPC has named their flood warden as the Infrastructure Officer to assist in the event of an emergency.

- Provide flood preparation advice on SPC website for residents.
- The Parish Council have a list of the main known gullies which, if blocked will cause flooding, either to property or main highways, as follows. There are numerous other small gullies which the Parish Stewards are aware of and will maintain on a regular.

Area	Location	Risk	Details
Area 1	A345 Clench Common To the west of the hamlet of Clench Common	Potential car accidents resulting from water flooding across the highway due to blocked gulleys.	Water flows onto the highway from surrounding fields. Leaves and silt cause the gulleys to block.
Area 2	A346 Cadley To the north of Cadley, in the dip immediately exiting the hamlet.	Potential car accidents resulting from water flooding across the highway due to blocked gulleys.	Water flows onto the highway from the forest and down the hill into the dip. Leaves and silt cause the gulleys to block.
Area 3	A346 Cadley To the south of Cadley, between Kingstones Farm & Cadley House entrances.	Potential car accidents resulting from water flooding across the highway due to blocked gulleys.	Water flows onto the highway from the forest and down the hill into Cadley over a long distance. Leaves and silt cause the gulleys to block.

Parishioner Preparatory Action

SPC advise residents to check their flood risk and take steps to protect their property from flooding.

There is a lot of advice on flooding on the Environment Agency website:

<https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>.

Also on the Meteorological Office website: <https://weather.metoffice.gov.uk/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice>

You can sign up to the Environment Agency Flood warnings. <https://www.gov.uk/get-flood-warnings> or contact them on **0345 988 1188**

Also, use this link to check for flood warnings in your area <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>. Use this service to check:

- Current flood warnings or alerts.
- River, sea, groundwater and rainfall levels.
- Flood risk in the next 5 days.

Other Precautionary actions

- Put important documents out of flood risk areas and protect in polythene.
- Check that your insurance covers you for flooding.
- Look at the best way of stopping floodwater entering your property.

- Find out where you can get sandbags.
- Identify who can help you/who you can help.
- Identify what you would need to take with you if you had to leave your home, eg phones & chargers, cash & credit cards, medications.

The Flood Mary website offers a great deal of information on preventative measure as well as what to do if your property is the victim of flooding. <https://floodmary.com/>
Also, advice and guidance to help those who have been flooded with the initial stages of recovery. <https://floodmary.com/help-and-resources/after-a-flood/>

The Flood May website also has a Property Flood Resilience (PFR) Directory to download, with clear information about practical PFR measures, from keeping water out to helping your home recover more quickly. <https://floodmary.com/attention-introducing-the-new-property-flood-resilience-pfr-directory/>

The National Flood Forum can also offer advice on precautionary and other aspects of flooding. <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk/about-flooding/preparing/emergency-flood-kit/>

Savernake Parish Council accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising directly or indirectly from action taken or not taken in reliance on material or information contained within this plan, or for any failure to activate the plan or any part thereof in response to a flood. It is the homeowner's responsibility to protect their property from flooding.

Likewise it is the responsibility of individual drivers to drive to the conditions and not drive through standing and moving water which presents an unknown hazard. Drivers identifying hazards such as flooding should report it to the appropriate authority. Whilst Savernake Parish Council may not be able to directly respond, it can assist where possible and help plan for future events if they are informed.

It is the individual's responsibility to protect themselves and their property from weather events. This policy is to assist individuals in their planning for these events and are guidelines only.