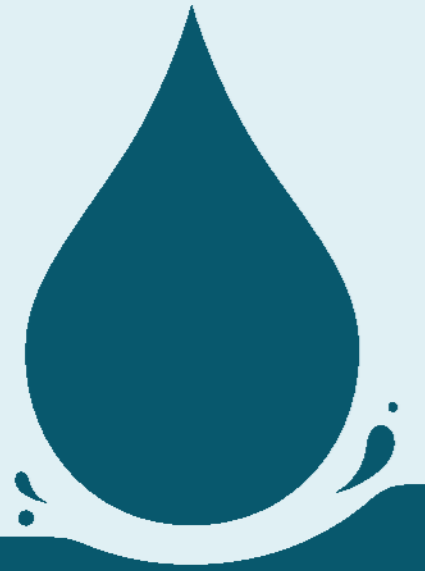


# The Littleton



# Flood Alleviation Scheme

Hampshire County Council has installed a groundwater flood defence to protect the Littleton area. This defence is better protecting parts of the Littleton area from flooding during periods of high groundwater.

## Who is this leaflet for?

This leaflet is for residents living in Littleton in the area benefiting from the flood defence. The leaflet provides an understanding of the scheme and includes key contact information. You can also provide this leaflet to insurers and mortgage providers who raise flooding issues as a concern, to help address these concerns.

## What is groundwater flooding?

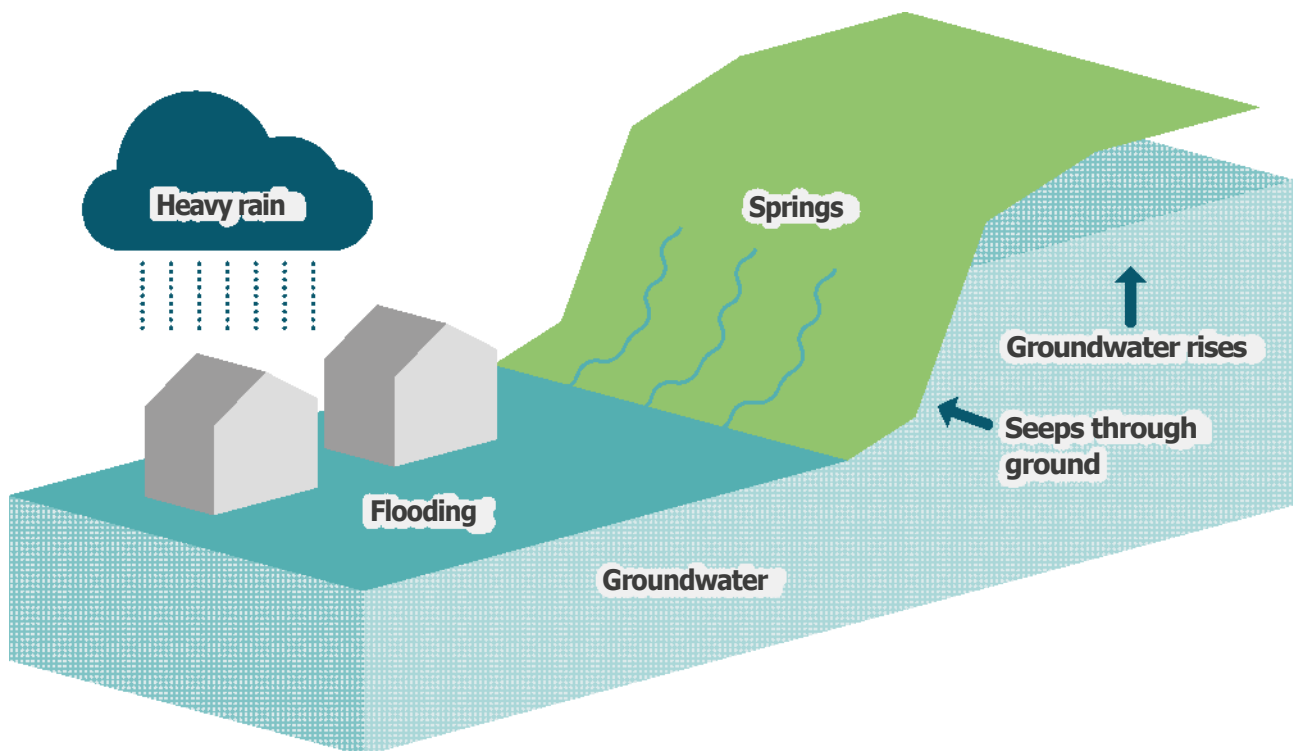
When it rains, water seeps into the ground and raises the water table in the underlying rock. Under normal conditions, the underlying rock holds this water well below the ground surface. However, in a very wet winter vast amount of rainwater causes the water in the underlying rock to rise to the surface and start seeping out of the ground causing flooding (see figure 1). Floodwater that comes out of the ground is known as groundwater flooding. The water that emerges may either flood houses directly by seeping through the floors or flows over the ground until it reaches houses and enters buildings through openings such as doors and airbricks.

## What happened in 2014?

The winter of 2013/2014 was extremely wet, and this led to a combination of groundwater, surface water, and sewage flooding in the Littleton area. The thirty-four properties reported being affected by the groundwater flooding.

## How does the flooding happen?

Groundwater flooding can last for many weeks and can result in secondary forms of flooding. Secondary forms of flooding include sewerage flooding as groundwater can seep into the joints and cracks in the foul sewer system pipes and



**Figure 1:** Shows how groundwater flooding can occur.

access chambers. Surface water flooding can also occur as rainfall that is normally drained by soakaways into the ground, can no longer do so, as the soakaways are full of groundwater. The rainfall has nowhere to go and so contributes to the flooding.

### What is the aim of the flood alleviation scheme?

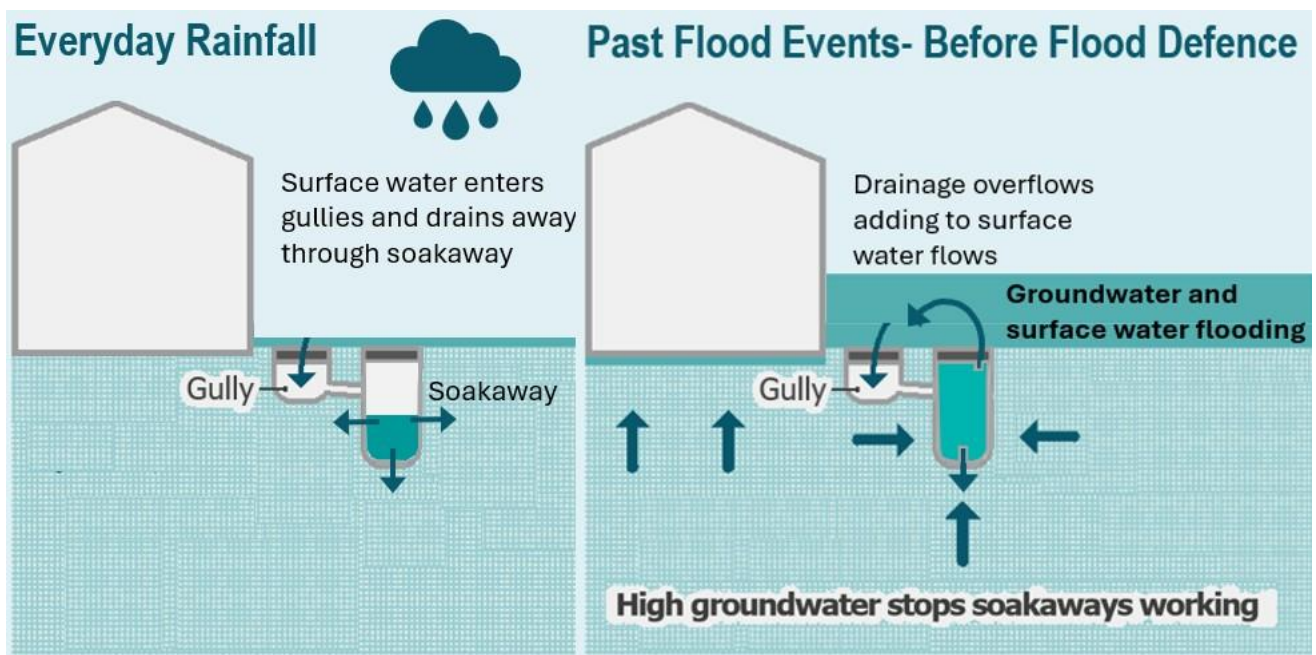
The County Council design the Littleton flood defence to manage the risk of flooding during periods of high groundwater levels, equivalent to that seen in 2013/14. This is to better protect fourteen properties and public infrastructure.

Hampshire County Council has been working closely with the following organisations:

- Winchester City Council
- The Environment Agency
- Littleton and Harestock Parish Council
- Fyfield Way Residents Association

### Standard of Protection

The County Council designed the scheme to protect against a groundwater event equivalent to the winter 2013/2014 event. The event which occurred in 2013/2014 has approximately a 1 in 30 chance of occurring in any one year.



**Figure 2:** Shows how groundwater flooding occurred before the defence was in place.

## How the flood defence works

Under normal circumstances, soakaways drain away the rainwater that falls in the Littleton area.

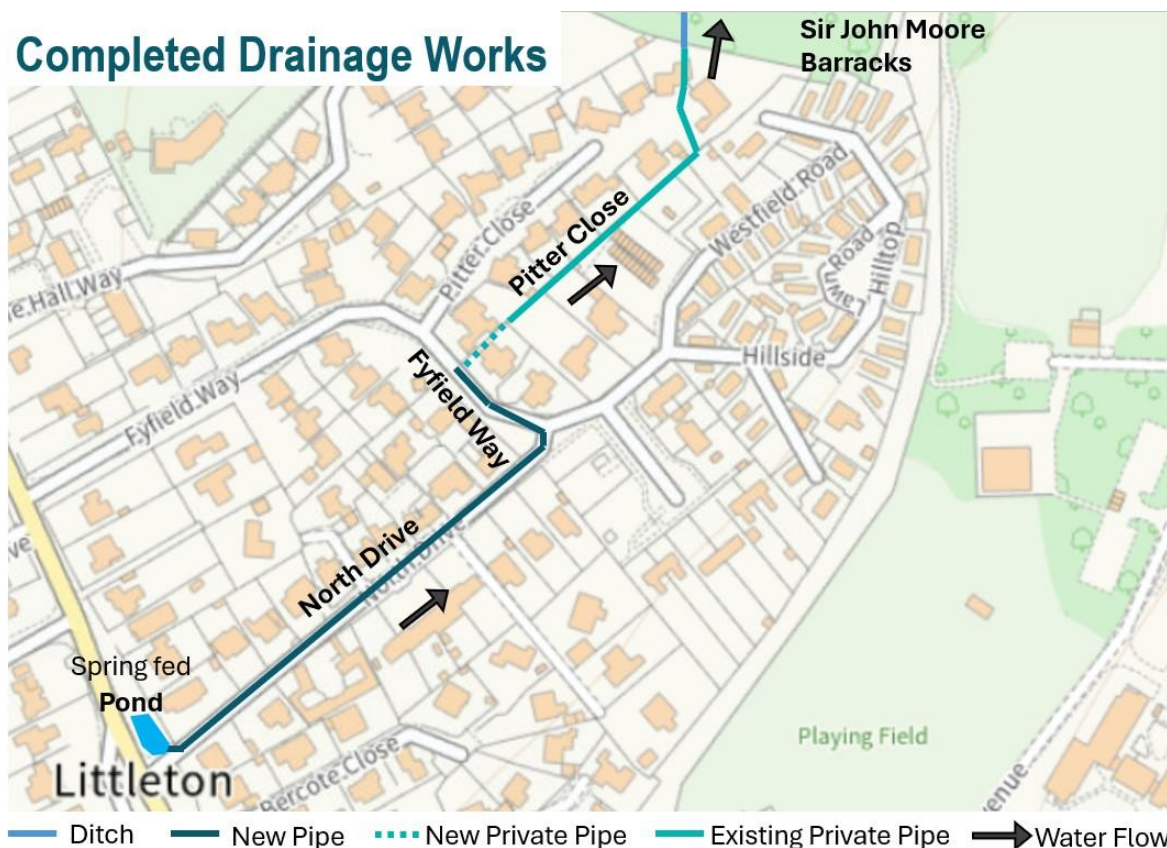
However, when there is a prolonged period of heavy rain, the groundwater level may rise to the point when soakaways stop working and flooding occurs above ground.

The high-level overflows, installed as part of the defence, picks up this water near the surface and drains it to the new pipe in North Drive. This pipe then carries the flood waters to the existing Fyfield Way/Pitter Close network and out to the ditch in Sir John Moore Barracks.

The defence only collects water when groundwater has risen close to, or breached, the ground surface and begins to flow over the land.

## The Littleton Flood Defence manages flood risk by:

- Reducing flooding by diverting water into a large new pipe
- Providing a high-level overflow route from the Main Road Pond and soakaways along North Drive and Fyfield Way.
- Providing a trash screen at the Main Road Pond overflow to reduce the risk of pond debris washing down the pipe, causing a blockage.

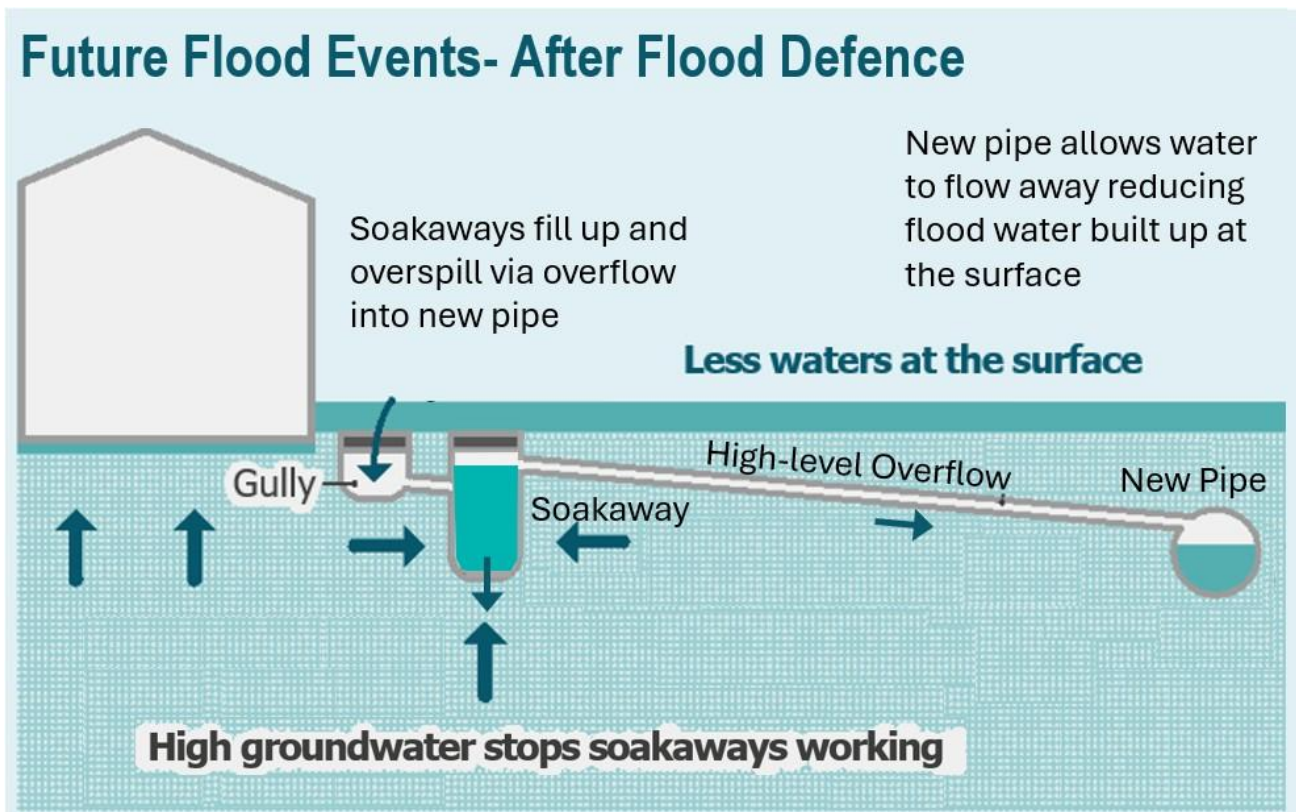


**Figure 3:** Shows the Littleton Flood Defence.

- will enable the highway drainage to continue to function when the soakaways are tide-locked by groundwater.
- providing a dependable, minimal maintenance, gravity fed system.
- will not stop groundwater seeping out of the ground (or through floors/cesspits) but it will take the water away once it has emerged.
- a reduction of costs, distress and disruption associated with the recovery from flooding events
- providing insurance and mortgage providers with evidence and confidence that the risk of flooding in the area is being managed and reduced by the defence
- increased ability of residents to sell their properties at market rates
- enhanced community wellbeing and resilience

### Benefits of the Littleton Flood Defence include:

- a significant reduction in the risk of flooding to properties in Littleton.
- a reduction in the loss of access to services due to flooding events



**Figure 4:** Shows how the flood defence works in groundwater flood event.



## What residents can do to minimise any outstanding flood risk

No flood defence can fully remove the risk of flooding. A defence can only reduce the frequency of flooding and minimise the impact of that flooding. We would therefore encourage those living in the area to take further action to minimise the impact of flooding:

Sign up to receive groundwater alerts

The Environment Agency monitors groundwater levels and issues a groundwater alert for this area when the groundwater levels are getting high. You can sign up to receive these alerts here:

[gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings](https://gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings)

Prepare a personal flood plan for your home

The Environment Agency have template personal flood plans that you can download and complete. These provide a handy list of actions to take before and during a flood to minimise the damage to your homes. LIT 4112 Personal flood Plan v1

([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)):  
[gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan](https://gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan)

Emergency plan

There is a Flood Action Group in this area and a Community Emergency Plan.

[hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/stayinformed](https://hants.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanning/stayinformed)

Flood insurance

Having adequate flood insurance provides financial resilience to those affected by flooding. If you are struggling to find affordable flood insurance, even after providing your insurer with this leaflet, then you may find Flood Re helpful. Flood Re is a joint initiative between the Government and insurers. Its aim is to make the flood cover part of household insurance policies more affordable. Visit [floodre.co.uk](https://floodre.co.uk) for more information.

## Roles and responsibilities

Below sets out who is responsible for the different elements of drainage in Littleton.

Hampshire Highways have adopted the Littleton Flood Alleviation Scheme and will be responsible for maintaining the Flood Alleviation Scheme pipework (on Highway land – North Drive and Fyfield Way) within the Highway boundary. They can be contacted here: [hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems](https://hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems)

Fyfield Way Residents Company – the private pipe network within the gardens of Fyfield Way and Pitter Close falls to the homeowners and Fyfield Way Residents Company to maintain.

Homeowners are responsible for their private drainage on their land. Where roof water drains to private soakaways, homeowners should keep these in good working order.

The Environment Agency has regulatory powers in ensuring that landowners maintain Main Rivers and in issuing flood warnings and groundwater alerts. [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

