

Flood Management

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/flooding>

Oxfordshire County Council's role:

The Water Management Act 2010 requires the county council to be the lead local flood authority for Oxfordshire. As such we are required to lead the coordination of flood risk management for surface water, ground water and smaller watercourses in our area.

We are also the consenting authority for filling in ditches or watercourses, although in Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, the district council work on our behalf.

Main river flooding remains the responsibility of the Environment Agency. Please check the Environment Agency site below to find out which are the main rivers in your area. District councils are the land drainage authority and we work closely with district councils on all land drainage and surface water issues.

Oxfordshire County Council has published a [Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment \(PFRA\)](#), which provides a strategic flood risk assessment of local sources of flooding and is also preparing a Flood Management Core Strategy.

How does this role relate to Neighbourhood Development Plans?

As development and land use plans, Neighbourhood Development Plans may have to take flood risk and flood management into account and identify flood risks in the local area.

It is likely that any planning applications for development proposed by the plan will have to demonstrate flood mitigation measures and we strongly suggest that all development proposed by Neighbourhood Development Plans should follow the principles of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

We suggest that parishes and neighbourhood forums are proactive in the maintenance of local ditches and consider making provision for this if necessary. We also would encourage all parishes to consider creating a flood group and flood plan to monitor local watercourses and report problems to the Environment Agency, local district council or ourselves.

Flood management information produced by Oxfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency:

- [Oxfordshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment](#) (June 2011)
- To find out which rivers are main rivers and to check whether particular locations in your neighbourhood area are vulnerable to flooding, go to the Environment Agency website: [Flood risk maps](#)

Oxfordshire County Council contact:

For advice on developing Neighbourhood Development Plans in areas that suffer from flooding from surface water, ground water and from rivers, contact the drainage team:

drainage@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The Environment Agency should be contacted in relation to main river flooding.