

Flood Report

December 2013
January and February 2014

Warminster Town Council has received information regarding recent flooding events which have occurred within the Parish. The photographs submitted relate to the period 22nd December through to 18th February 2014.

There was a substantial amount of surface water flooding and it is believed that only three houses were actually flooded although plenty of drive ways and garages experienced water ingress.

We have not received any reports of ground water flooding.

Maintenance to the Town's balancing ponds has not been undertaken.

The drains have not been emptied within the town centre since October 2012 and no new schedules have been provided of the current programme. There is a need for gullies to be emptied elsewhere in the town to improve water run off. These would be at most of the areas highlighted below which experienced large amounts of run off recently.

Fore Street managed to stay relatively free of flood and the hydrobreak in the Fore Street Playing field worked well.

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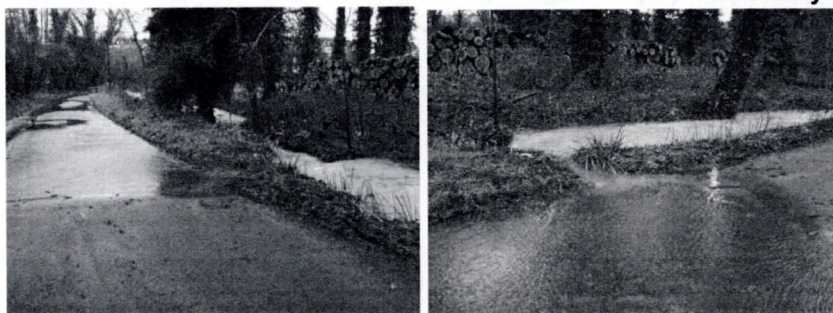
Smallbrook Road Warminster

Pictures taken January 4th & 5th 2014.

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Smallbrook Road Warminster

These pictures were taken on 5th January 2014. Water flows from the River Were onto the road and down hill. This is not in Smallbrook Meadows reserve. The Culvert blockage was reported on line by the Flood Warden and the item closed down advising that it was not a matter for Highways to deal with. The break needs to be repaired.

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Smallbrook Meadows



Part of the new paths created during 2013 are above water level during January as the Were is overflowing onto the old Water Meadow. This is how the meadows were engineered and absorbs part of the flow.

Much of the flooding in the reserve is from the overflowing River Were.

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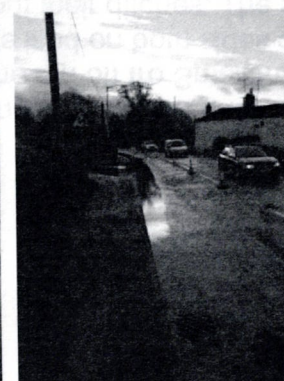
Willow Crescent

This is the ditch below Willow Crescent. It has had an appreciable flow all 2011 despite the dry year, since the culvert under Smallbrook Road was cleared. The water comes mostly from draining the Smallbrook Meadows but when it rains the run off from Smallbrook Road and in high water the surplus drains out of the Were and runs down the road into the ditch. Wilts CC own the land on both sides of the ditch. It had been hoped a year ago to use this as an example of what land owners could achieve by cleaning out their ditches. The shot of the culvert under the path down from Willow Crescent shows that now there is no grid. Not only could flood debris enter the culvert and block it, there is nothing to stop a child crawling in. The other end is slightly lower. There is a strong possibility that this is a summer roost for Daubenton's bats. I am asked to point out that the culvert emerges into an old course of the river Wylde and this swampy area eventually takes the water to the Wylde. Digging this out would improve the flow greatly. Thus this area could be an example of good land use by Wilts CC which would improve the drainage by removing impediments to the flow. Action taken a year ago has allowed unrestricted access by children to the culvert. I have not seen anyone tempted, but the possibility exists.

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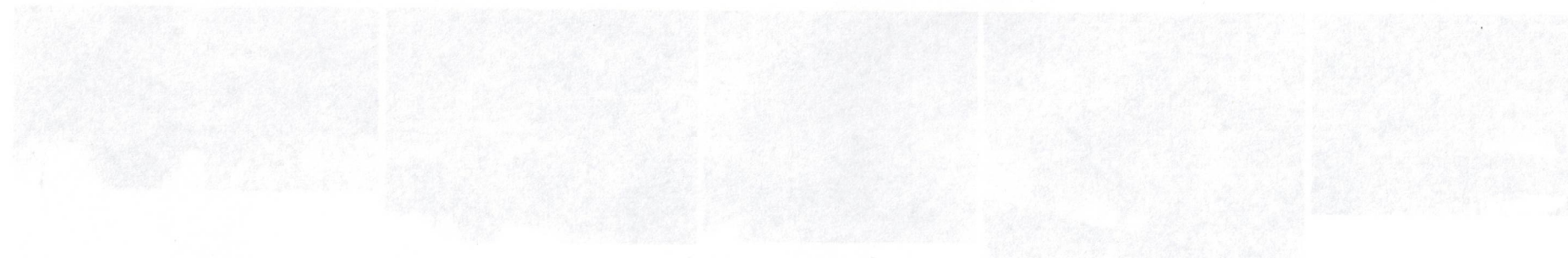
Bath Road
Christmas Eve 2013

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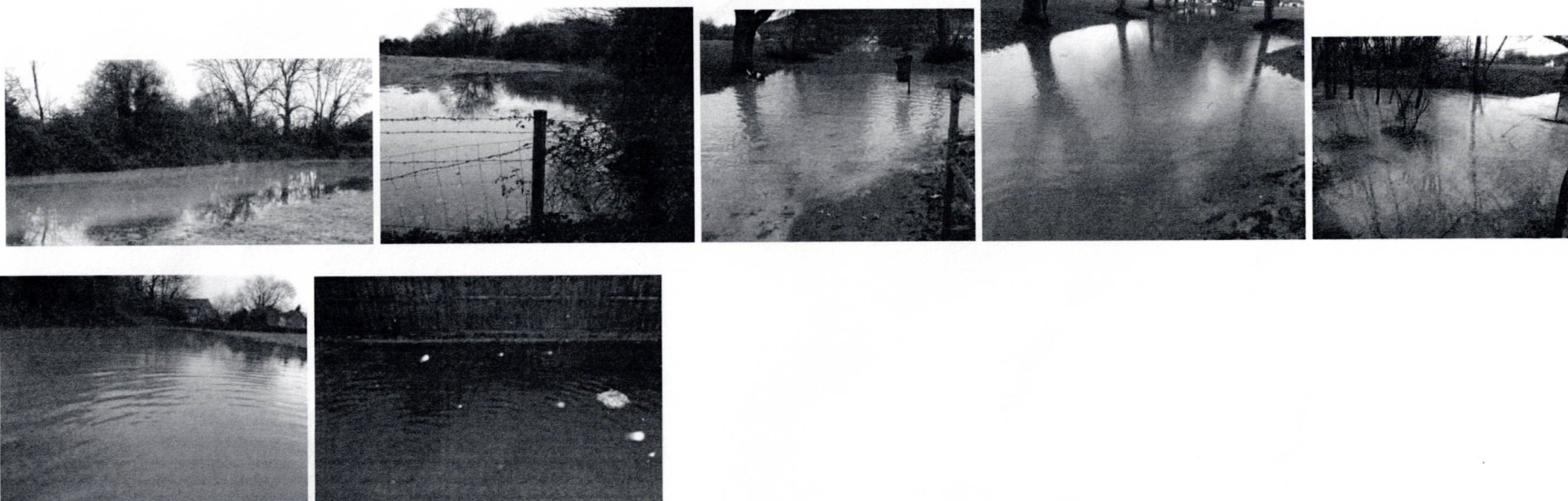


Minster Church Car Park Bath Road
Christmas Eve 2013



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Dorothy Walk view from East and West. Connects to Portway Estate, Manor Gardens and Rectory Close.

Christmas 2013 and into January 2014.

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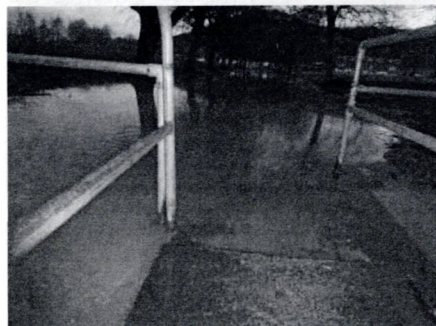
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8 Rectory Close



68 Manor Gardens



Bridge over the Were leading to Portway Estate.

The Fire brigade came and pumped water out of Portway estate on two occasions and properties could not gain access to cars for over three weeks due to surface water flooding. Wiltshire Council have visited the site in late December and agree that work is required to improve the situation in this area.

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Boreham Crossroads



Boreham Crossroads and Field off Crossroads. (Spurt Mead)

Boreham Road

Spurt Mead

The owners of the land advise that this field is outside the flood plain and if a proposed planning application is granted, work to improve drainage around the site will be undertaken which will assist in periods of heavy rainfall. The project engineers using a flooding model, have advised that the site itself does not flood, but water run off from Boreham Road currently discharges into the sites perimeter watercourse and this caused localised flow back onto the junction. Planned clearing of the ditches, widening of the access culvert and improvement to highway drainage would prevent this happening in the future following completion of the development.

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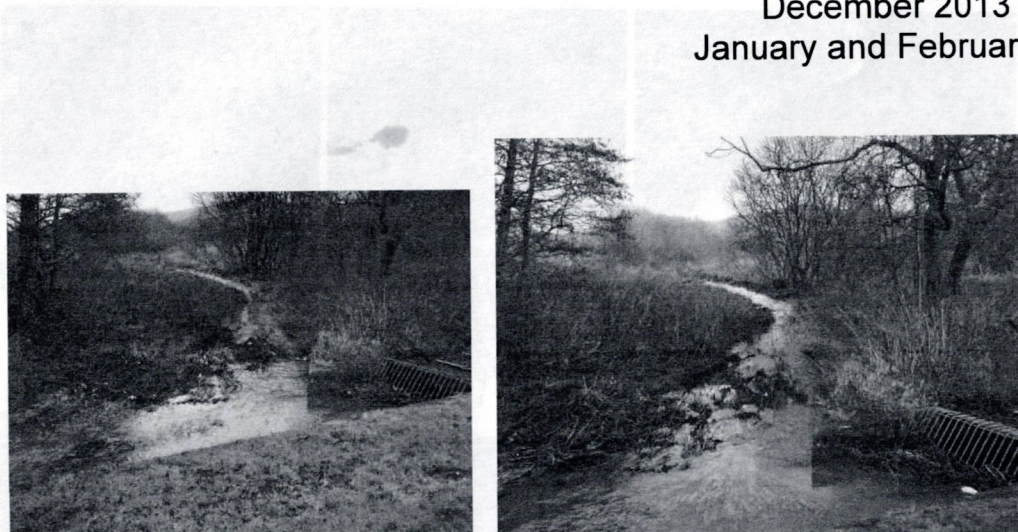
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Town Park

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Groveland Estate

The water flows in a distinct stream over the marshy area. None is stored and goes to the culvert in the embankment ST865453 and straight through to join Were North.

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Grovelands Estate balancing pond

The water flows straight through the culvert with no storage and past the Warminster School sports ground and joins what flows under Cold Harbour Lane, then round behind the Minster, joined by what is called Were North and is culverted from George St Place until it emerges in the park.

Water flows in a distinct stream right across the area and into the culvert on the left. Created a wonderful wilderness for water voles. Pictures taken January 2014. In the foreground is the diversion weir with debris and silt most of the water if flowing across what is intended to be a holding pond but none is trapped. This is diverting water from flowing down by the Brambles and Pippins sections of the estate but adding to what goes by Cold Harbour Lane.

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Smallbrook Lane

THE WILTSHIRE COUNCIL HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that from Monday 10TH FEBRUARY 2014; the following length of road shall be closed to all traffic in the interests of public safety due to flooding.

UC SMALLBROOK LANE, WARMINSTER; at its junction with B3414 Boreham Road.

Alternative route: Please seek alternative route

The closure will be clearly indicated by traffic signs throughout the flooding period.

This closure notice comes into effect on 10th February 2014, for a maximum of 21 days.

