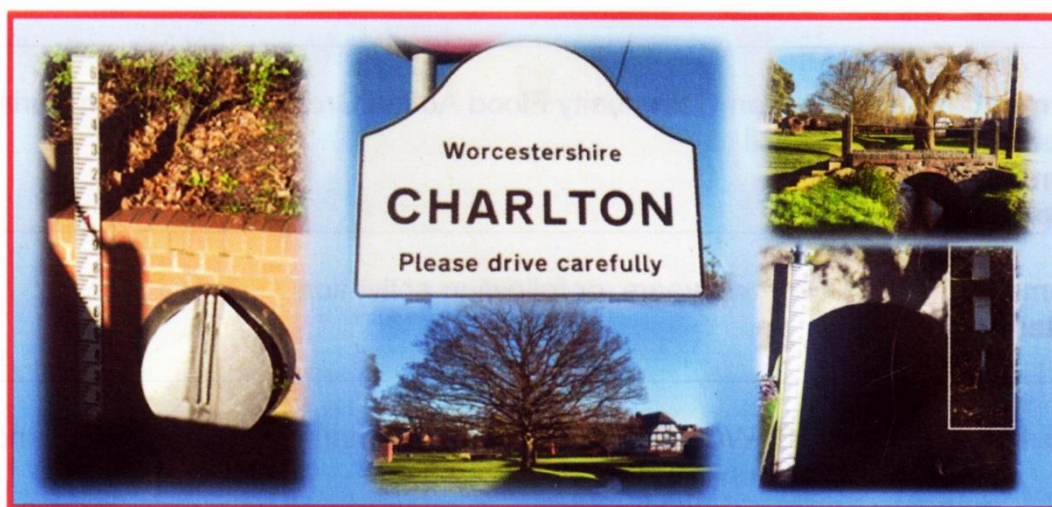


West Mercia Local Resilience Forum Charlton (Merry Brook) Rapid Response Catchment Community Plan



1. Charlton (Merry Brook) Rapid Response Catchment Flood Risk

'Rapid Response Catchment' (RRC) is an official term used for those catchments where a river or a stream reacts very rapidly to rainfall, and generates dangerous flood depths and high velocities of water that pose a significant threat to life.

The depth and speed of flood water will have the ability to destroy infrastructure, lift and carry vehicles away and pose a significant threat to life.

The Merry Brook catchment is classed by the Environment Agency (EA) as a Rapid Response Catchment, from its source to the confluence with the River Avon. The classification reflects the flashy character of the brook and the threat it poses.

The EA conducted a desktop study, which modelled the amount of rainfall that fell during the Boscastle flood event of 2004. This modelling highlighted the areas where similarities in response could occur or risks could pose significant threat to life. The criteria for a Rapid Response Catchment is a time to peak of less than, or equal to, 3 hours. This is why Charlton has been designated **a very high risk Rapid Response Catchment**.

2. Location

The Merry Brook flows northwards from Bredon Hill through the village of Charlton (Wychavon), to the confluence with the River Avon.

See Appendix A for a map of the area at risk from flooding.

3. Community Plan Aim

To provide a Community framework for the management of the risks identified by flooding:

- Property
- Highway Infrastructure
- Associated Health Risks

4. **Properties Affected and Health Risks of Flooding in Charlton**

4.1 **Properties Affected by the Rapid Response Catchment**

There are a number of dwellings in the Wychavon District Council area that could be **impacted** by flooding of the Merry Brook, depending on the severity of the flood.

Impacted – in this situation means that they may be directly flooded or have restricted access due to impassable roads, and or damage to road surfaces and bridge structures.

If residents want to investigate their individual flood risk they should visit:
<https://www.gov.uk/check-flood-risk>

4.2 **Associated Health Risks**

Dirty Water. Missing or raised manhole/drain covers. Fast flowing water.

Do not enter flood water - it is a significant threat to life.

NHS Health and Wellbeing Advice is available at: <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk>

5. **Roads Affected**

The following roads will likely be impassable to vehicle and pedestrian traffic, due to inundation of flood waters. WCC Highways teams and/or Emergency Services may not be able to immediately access the village, depending on how and when the situation presents.

Location	Grid Reference	Comment
Pershore Road Bridge B4084	401718, 243518	Flooded in 2007, but likely to be passable.
Brook Lane	401079, 245710	Usually impassable as soon as flooding occurs.
Canada Bank Bridge	400956, 245602	Canada Bank runs to The Green.
The Green and The Strand	400870, 245578	Including bridge locally referred to as Cemetery Bridge (400518, 245508)
Jubilee Bridge and road to Fladbury (Mill Bank)	400089, 245582	Flooded by the River Avon.

6. River Level Gauge and Flood Warnings

6.1 Pershore Road (B4084) Bridge River Level Gauge

An automated River Level Gauge is installed at the Pershore Road (B4084) Bridge at National Grid Reference: 401718.8, 243518.8.

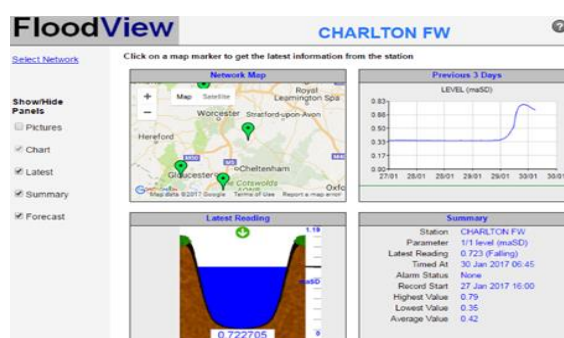
It is situated on the Merry Brook as it goes under the B4084. This is a community owned gauge, paid for by the Environment Agency, but not part of the main EA Flood Warning System.

The system is maintained by Hydrologic.
For contact details see Appendix C.

For details of the Gauge Board, see Appendix B.

Live information is relayed to a website which can be viewed at www.floodview.net

Type **EA Midlands** in place of **HL Demonstration Account** and click Enter. Zoom in on the map to Evesham and click on the green Charlton marker. (Please give the website time to load data as it sometimes runs slowly.)



If you need assistance with accessing the website please contact either Derek Arnold or Roger Davies of the Charlton Flood Action Group. Contact details in appendix C.

6.2 Receiving Warning Messages

Charlton residents can sign up to receive automated warning messages from the gauge (see 6.3 below) by emailing: floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk stating "Charlton Gauge Sign Up" as the subject and including their name, address, email and/or telephone number. Alternatively residents may call 0203 0259742.

6.3 Flood Warnings

The automated river level gauge provides warnings messages to pre-registered mobile phones, landlines and / or emails at pre-defined water levels. **The unpredictable and rapid rate-of-rise may mean that this notification period is only a matter of minutes.**

Warning Level	Water Depth	Message
1	1.4 m	Flood Warning level 1 for vulnerable premises in Charlton. Merry Brook is about to overflow. Brook Lane roadway may be flooded. Watch levels closely.
2	1.6 m	Flood Warning level 2. Brook Lane and The Green will probably be impassable. Vulnerable properties on Brook Lane may be affected.
3	2 m	Flood Warning level 3. Levels continue to rise on the Merry Brook. Further properties are likely be affected. Some roads and bridges in Charlton will be impassable.
4	2.25 m	Flood Warning level 4. Significant flooding in Charlton. Do not drive or walk through flood water and dial 999 if you are in immediate danger.

Water Depth is the depth measured at the gauge (see appendix B).

The above flood warnings are for general information. People's individual circumstances will differ at each measured level. Residents will need to interpret these gauge levels based on their individual location and circumstances. (See Section 7 below.)

7. Resident's Responsibilities

7.1 Vulnerable People

Due to the nature of a Rapid Response Catchment and the immediate inaccessibility of the community, there will need to be a significant element of self-reliance and neighbourhood assistance.

Circumstances can change. Anyone can find themselves being vulnerable in a flood situation. It is important that residents prepare for the possibility of flooding and take the appropriate actions listed below (Section 7.2).

7.2 Self-Action

Residents of properties within the area at risk of flooding are **strongly advised to sign up for flood warnings** (see Section 6.2). They should be aware of, and monitor, water levels so that they can take appropriate actions.

Residents are advised to complete an individual flood plan. Templates are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-flood-plan>

Further advice and guidance on flooding is available from:

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/plan-ahead-for-flooding>

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/environmental-management/flooding-coastal-change>

The National Flood Forum <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk>

7.3 Emergency Evacuation of Residents

Due to the nature of the risk, there will be insufficient time for multi-agency partners to provide an immediate response to assist with an evacuation.

Residents should consider whether self-evacuation is necessary, appropriate and/or safe in advance as part of their personal flood plan.

If your life is in immediate danger - dial 999.

7.4 Rest Centres

An official 'rest centre' will not be established for immediate evacuation. This is due to the short time between receiving warnings of flooding and flooding taking place. It is therefore important that residents make their own action plan if they feel they would quickly need to move to a place of safety.

7.5 **Place Of Safety**

The Old Schoolroom has been designated as a Place of Safety.

Consider your personal safety when deciding to make your way to the Old Schoolroom. Would it be more suitable to remain in your home, go upstairs or call 999 if you feel you are in immediate danger.

Due to the location of the Old Schoolroom, behind the Church, **only residents on the north side (the Church side) of the brook will be able to access the Old Schoolroom.**

Those on the South side of the brook (the opposite side to the Old Schoolroom), may not be able to access this location during times of flooding due to roads and bridges being impassable therefore residents will need to seek help from friends and family.

If not already open access to the Old Schoolroom can be gained by obtaining a key from a keyholder who is located on the North side of the Merrybrook.

Every effort will be made to open the community place of safety before the event reaches its peak, however due to the rapid nature of the onset of flooding, this may not be possible.

8. **Recovery**

After a flooding event, the Old Schoolroom will act as a base for recovery. Wychavon District council, Worcestershire County Council and other multi-agency partners may attend to offer advice, guidance and support for anyone who requires it. Local Flood Group volunteers may also be present to signpost residents to relevant information and sources of support.

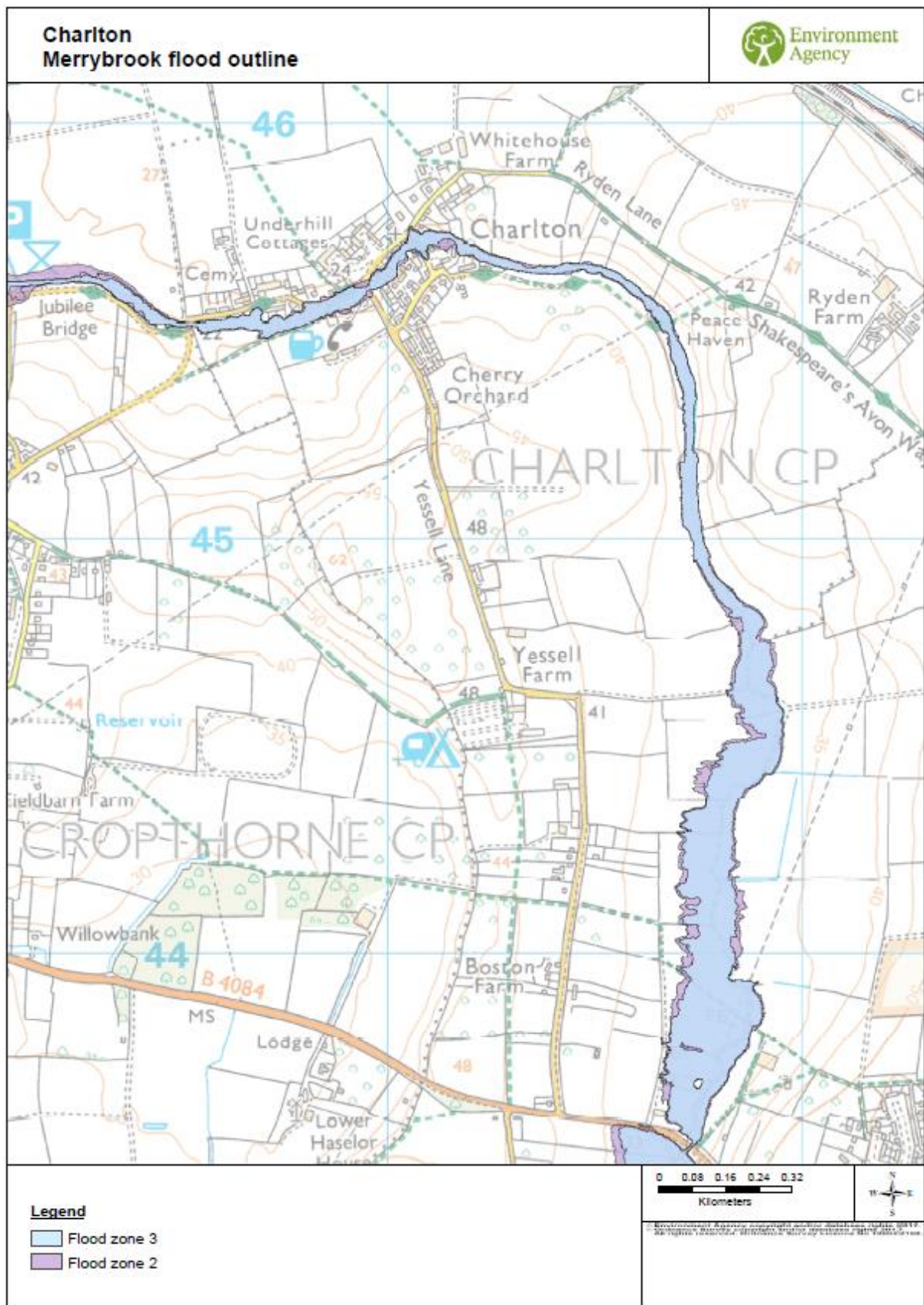
If required, Wychavon District Council will provide temporary accommodation via the homelessness team using existing protocols. (See appendix C for contact details.)

9. **Acknowledgements**

This Community plan was developed from Worcestershire County Council and Environment Agency documents by Libby Tassell (WCC), Jason Walker (EA), Emma Turner (EA), Roger Davies (Charlton Parish Council), and Derek Arnold (Charlton Flood Action Group).

Appendix A

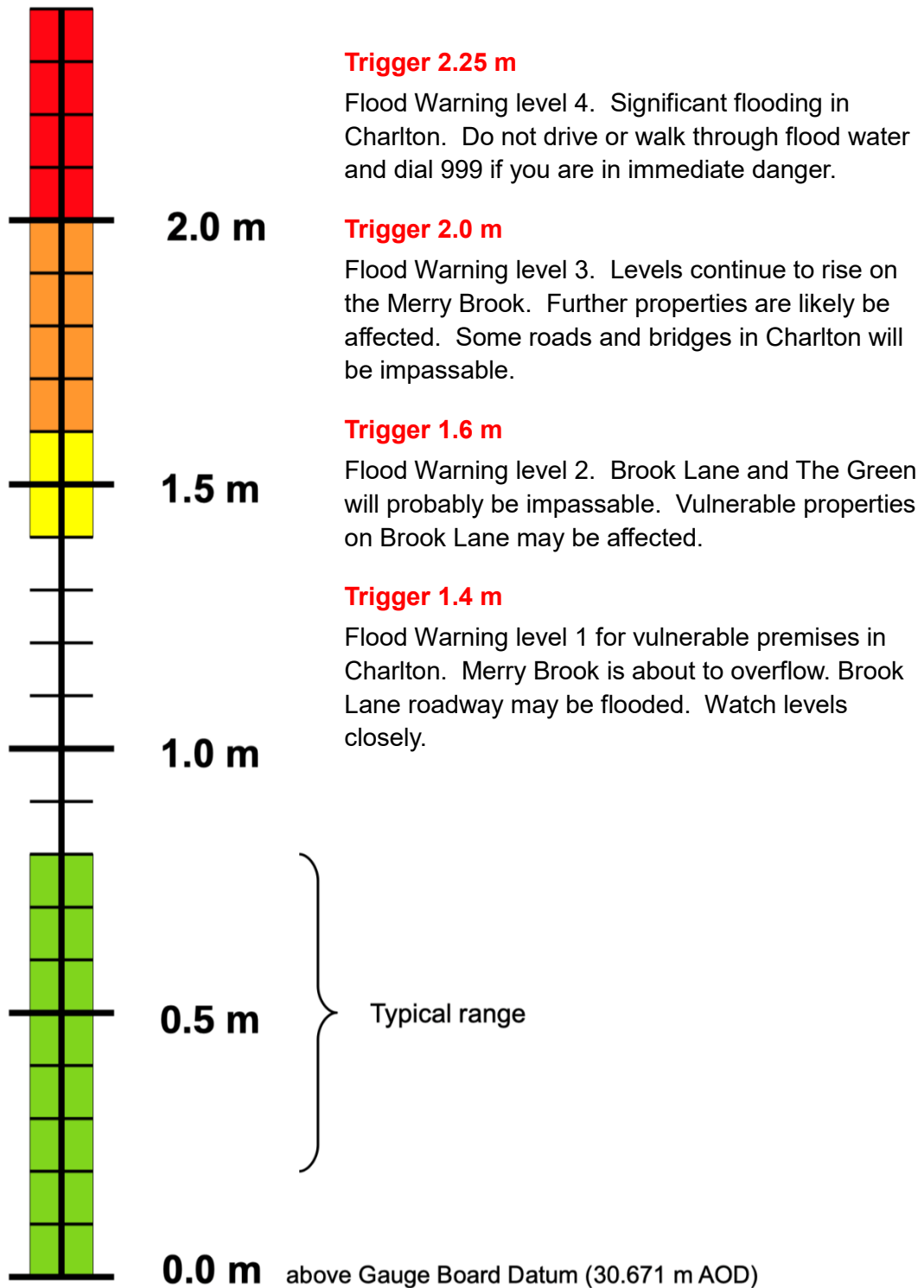
Area at Risk from Flooding



Appendix B

Charlton (Merry Brook) Gauge Board

This diagram is for the gauge board at the B4084 Pershore Road Bridge.
 The levels on the Brook Lane Bridge gauge board will be approximately 0.3m lower.



Appendix C

Contacts

Organisation	Role	Contact details
Charlton Community Flood Group	Flood Group Leads	Roger Davies 01386 861041 Derek Arnold 01386 860800
Charlton Parish Council	Clerk to Charlton PC	Roger Gurney 01905 830756
Hydrologic	River Gauge Maintenance	0118 933 1325
Environment Agency	Floodline	0345 988 11 88
	Flood Resilience Team	floodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk
	Incident Hotline	0800 80 70 60
Worcestershire County Council	Worcestershire Hub	01905 763 763 or 01905 765 765 (office hours only)
	Emergency Planning Dept.	01905 766 171 (office hours only) emergencyplanningstaff@worcestershire.gov.uk
Wychavon District Council	Projects and Emergency Planning Manager	01386 565235 (office hours only) 01562 733180 (out of hours emergency hotline) jem.teal@wychavon.gov.uk